Art by
AKIRA ISHIDA

Original Work by
MAMARE TOUNO

Character Design by KEINOJOU MIZUTAMA and toi8

MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
CHAPTER 32

Chapter 32 Archenemy and Hero
I Just Wanted to Walk With You

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MAOYU

VOLUME 10

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CHAPTER 32 Archenemy and Hero 001

I Just Wanted to Walk With You

CHAPTER 33 Archenemy and Hero 049

Roads

CHAPTER 34 Archenemy and Hero 103

Humans are Involved in the World From the Moment They are Born

MAOYU

Archenemy and Hero

"Become mine, Hero" "I refuse!"

VOLUME 10

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COLUMN PAGE
Daisuke Takenouchi (Recca-sha)
Masataka Nomura

Lectures on Archenemy and Hero
Outline of volume.9

World with the Hero disguised as the Black Knight and the Chief Maid.

She holds a Kurultai, a major conference of demons, and asks the chiefs of eight major demon clans to agree to cease hostilities against the humans. Though the Blue Demon King's motion to dethrone the Demon Queen causes a disturbance, Archduke Fire Dragon and the Commander of the Eastern Fortress' quick wits restore order to the meeting. However, an assassination attempt on the Demon Queen leaves her gravely injured. The Demon Queen takes advantage of the opportunity by announcing her own death and laying a trap.

Meanwhile, the Blue Demon Prince with demon monarch seals in each eye kills his father and ascends to the throne. As the Seal King of Blue Demons, he declares his candidacy for the demon monarch's throne.

With no other candidates, the Seal King is crowned the new demon king. As the prince smiles inwardly, the assassin is discovered among the Blue Demons. When questioned, the Seal King declares the end of the Kurultai and resists. When all seems lost, the Demon Queen appears with the Hero supporting her. Backed into a corner, the Seal King orders his hidden soldiers to kill the Demon Queen, but the Hero and clan chiefs successfully drive off the Blue Demons. The Seal King retreats to his territory with his soldiers in tow. After the battle, the Hero removes his helmet and reveals his identity to the chiefs and describes the thoughts and intentions of the Demon Queen. The Seal King's betrayal unites the clan chiefs by chance.

However, the Demon Queen's condition is still serious. She entrusts her authority to the grand conference and returns once more to the Human World.

EACH CLAN SHOULD THINK ON THE OUTCOME THEY DESIRE...
...AND SHARE IT WITH THE OTHERS.
...WANTED US TO THINK ABOUT OUR OWN FUTURES OURSELVES.
PERHAPS THE DEMON QUEEN...

The Demon Queen and Hero being working together to change the world. Three years have passed since they began working in Overwinter Village in the Human World. The numerous technologies and information bestowed on the Winter Kingdom by the Demon Queen working as the Crimson Scholar have spread to the neighboring Iron and Ice Kingdoms, dramatically improving the lives of the people.

The three kingdoms, which had been gradually gaining power, form the

IN THE NAME OF THIS HOLY CONTRACT, ACCEPT THIS CROWN.
TAKE THIS CROWN OF THE DEMON MONARCH IN MY HANDS...
...AND CONTROL ITS CURSE AND DUTY WITH SELF-RESTRAINT.

Three Kingdom Trade Alliance to escape their exploitation at the hands of the Holy Kingdom. Furthermore, the allied nations appoint the Female Knight's Lakeside Convent as their national religion. Prepared to confront the Central Continent led by the Holy Kingdom, the allied nations plan their economic and spiritual independence.

These changes push the Merchant's Alliance, the Human World's largest economic organization, into motion. The Young Merchant, leader of the Alliance, lays plans to establish a two major currency system using wheat. After an encounter with Princess Fire Dragon, he also negotiates with Archduke Fire Dragon to extend his trade routes into the Spirit World, and the two reach a trade agreement regarding salt.

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REMARK THE DEMON QUEEN

THE HERO

A young man working with the Demon Queen. In the Spirit World he called himself the Black Knight and operated as an agent of the Demon Queen. He revealed his identity to the chiefs after the Demon Queen's assassination attempt.

THE FEMALE KNIGHT

One of the Hero's former traveling companions. Though she is aware of the Demon Queen's true identity, she remains a sympathetic supporter. She and the Demon Queen are romantic rivals.

THE LONELY WINTER KING

The young king of the Winter Kingdom. Forming an alliance with the Iron and Ice Kingdoms, he seeks to become independent from the Holy Kingdom and Central Continent. He deals with threats as the leader of the confederation.

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One of the Hero's former traveling companions. Like the Demon Queen, she joined the Library Clan and acquired great amounts of knowledge regarding the world.

ARCHDUKE FIRE DRAGON

Chief of the Dragon Clan.

THE PATTERNED CHIEF

Chief of the Humanoid Demon Clan.

DUKE SILVER TIGER

Chief of the Fanged Demon Clan

THE GIANT COUNT

Chief of the Giant Clan

THE FAIRY QUEEN

Chief of the Fairy Clan

THE OGRE CALL PRIESTESS

Chief of the Ogre Call Clan.

THE SEAL KING OF THE BLUE DEMONS

New chief of the Blue Demon Clan.

THE STEEL GENERAL

Chief of the Mechanical Clan.

THE BUTLER

One of the Hero's former traveling companions known as the Legendary Archer. Currently he works for the Lonely Winter King as his butler and gathers information.

THE DEMON QUEEN

Using the knowledge she gained from the Outer Library, the queen of demons seeks to reform the world. Though she successfully convinces the powerful demon clans to cease hostilities against humankind, she is gravely wounded by an assassin. She is currently recovering in Overwinter Village in the Human World.

THE CHIEF MAID

Has been caring for the Demon Queen since she was a child. She desires happiness for the Demon Queen and works to make the Demon Queen's dream come true.

THE OLDER MAID SISTER

A former serf working in the Demon Queen's mansion as a maid. While studying under the Demon Queen and Chief Maid, she ponders the meaning of her own existence.

THE YOUNGER MAID SISTER

A maid working with her sister in the Demon Queen's mansion. Her gluttony opens her eyes to the world of cooking. Every day she invents new dishes and expands her repertoire.

THE YOUNG MERCHANT

Leader of the Alliance, the Human World's largest economic organization. He seeks new trade routes in the Spirit World and forms a trade agreement over salt with Archduke Fire Dragon as a first step.

PRINCESS FIRE DRAGON

Daughter of Archduke Fire Dragon. She visits the Human World as a representative of Gateway City and asks the Young Merchant to help her acquire salt. She travels with him and expands her experiences.

THE ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL

Younger brother of the Holy Kingdom's king and powerful hero of the Human World. The properties of the musket catch his eye, and he gathers farmers to train them as militiamen.

THE COMMANDER OF THE EASTERN FORTRESS

Former captain of the Holy Key Expeditionary Force. He names the human and demon residents of Gateway City the Gateway Clan and participates in the Kurultai as their clan chief, saving the Demon Queen from danger.

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WHOOSH
I FEEL RELAXED IN THIS MANSION.
I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M HOME.
MY SISTER IS DELIGHTED YOU'VE COME HOME.
SHE'S COOKING RIGHT NOW
NATURALLY, I'M DELIGHTED AS WELL.
THIS MANSION IS TOO LARGE FOR JUST THE TWO OF US.

I SEE.
I'M SORRY.
NOT AT ALL.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
WHOOSH!
THE WIND IS STILL CHILLY.
SHALL I CLOSE THE WINDOW?
NO.
THE SUNLIGHT IS WARM AND COMFORTABLE.
I'LL READ MY DOCUMENTS HERE.
WILL YOU BRING THEM TO ME?
YES.
GIVE ME A MOMENT.

!
OH.
THAT WAS QUICK.
KNOCK
KNOCK
HERO!
HEY.
SHE WAS CARRYING A MOUNTAIN OF DOCUMENTS.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.
WOW.
YES! YES. I SEE.
THIS IS...
OH.
I'VE COLLECTED SOME EXCERPTS AND STATISTICS HERE.
I DID BRING EVERYTHING THOUGH...
THIS IS A TON OF DOCUMENTS, THOUGH.
YOU'RE STILL RECOVERING. DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD.

IT'S NOT THAT GREAT.
THANK YOU FOR THE HELP.
IT'S VERY EASY TO UNDER-STAND.
THE MAID SISTERS' MASTER IS MOSTLY THE CHIEF MAID.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
YES.
BUT...
I'M ALWAYS IMPRESSED BY YOUR WORK, OLDER MAID SISTER.
ARE YOU PROUD TO BE HER MASTER, DEMON QUEEN?
COME TO THINK OF IT, I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IN A WHILE.
I HOPE THEY'RE DOING WELL.
THOSE THREE WOULD BE YOUR AP-PRENTICES.

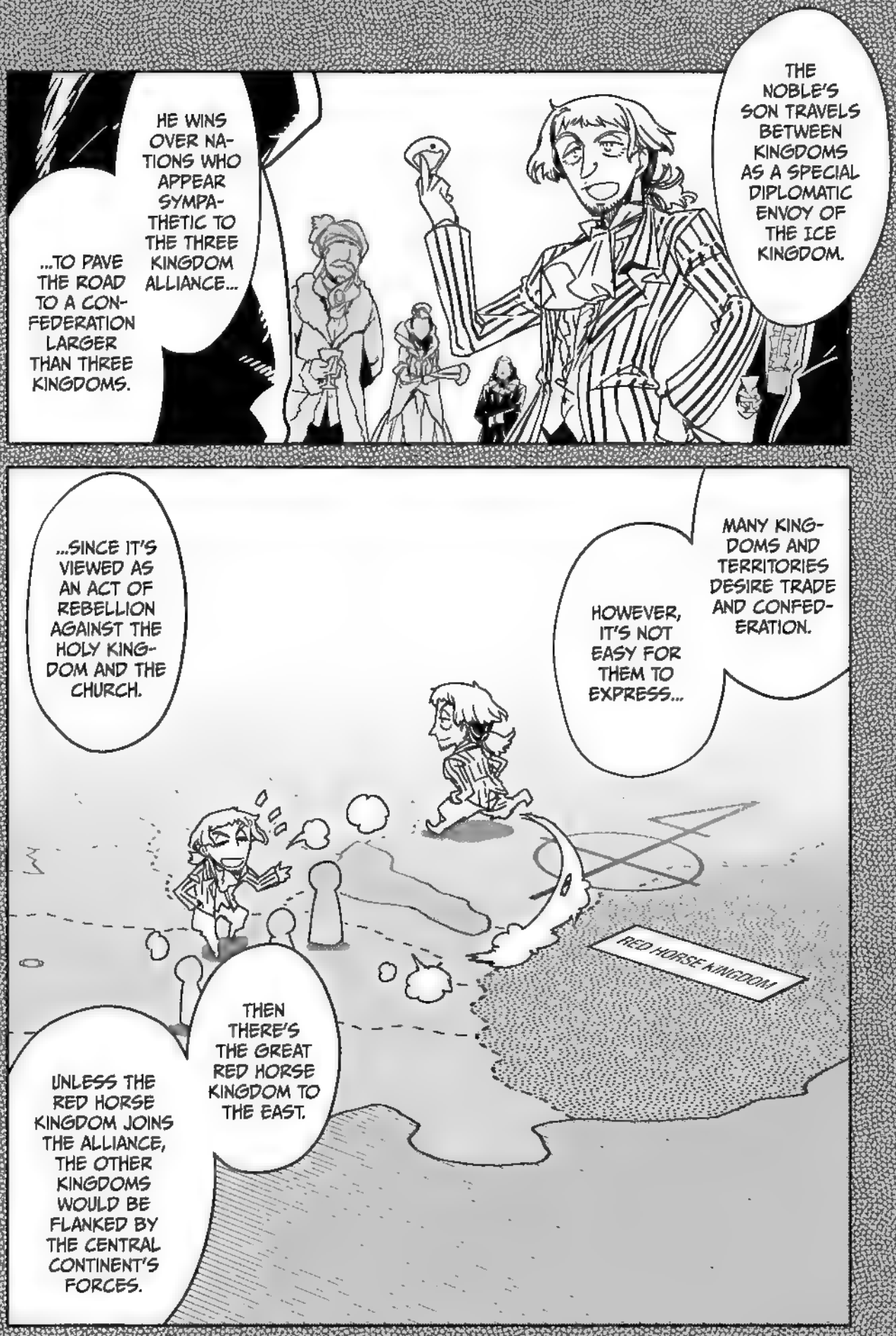
OH, RIGHT.
THE MINERAL AND SOIL SAMPLES THEY SENT SAVED US.
THOSE THINGS WE USED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE MECHANICAL CLAN?
THE SONS ARE WORKING HARD.
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THEM WHEN I FINALLY MET THEM AGAIN.
!
FLIP
OH?
LET ME SEE.
IT SHOULD BE OVER HERE...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE WERE UPDATES ON THE SONS' CURRENT SITUATION SOMEWHERE IN THE REPORT.

THE MERCHANT'S SON WORKS AS THE TREASURER OF THE WINTER KINGDOM.
HE'S TURNED THE WINTER KINGDOM'S BUDGET...
...FROM ONE THAT RELIED ON THE CENTRAL KINGDOM TO ONE THAT IS THEIR OWN.
POTATO PRODUC-TION IS RISING.
THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF THEIR FOOD SUP-PLIES IS RISING.
HE'S ESTABLISHING THE KINGDOM'S ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AFTER CUTTING TIES WITH THE CENTRAL CONTINENT.

RECORDING FAMILY REGISTERS AND STORING RECORDS IS IMPORTANT WORK.
HE'S HANDLING THE RISE IN POPULATION DUE TO REFUGEES WELL.
HE COPIED PAST RECORDS WRITTEN ON PARCHMENT ONTO PAPER INSTEAD.
HE SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND THAT AND IS BOLDLY COMPILING BUDGETS.
REACHING A HIGH OFFICE COMES WITH GREATER RESPONSIBILITY, BUT IT ALSO ALLOWS HIM TO DO MORE.

LIKE THE WINTER KINGDOM, MANY REFUGEES ARE IMMIGRATING TO THE IRON KINGDOM.
THE SOLDIER'S SON HAS BECOME LORD PROTECTOR OF THE IRON KINGDOM.
THEY PLAN TO COMPENSATE FOR FOOD SHORTAGES BY CLEARING THE WILDERNESS.
ONCE THE REFUGEES HAVE WORKED FOR FIVE YEARS, THEY WILL BE GRANTED MONEY AND LAND.
DURING TIMES OF PEACE, THEY WORK THE FIELDS, FORMING A HALF AGRICULTURAL AND HALF MILITARISTIC ORGANIZATION.
THE ARMY HIRES THEM TO SERVE AS ENGINEERS.

IT SHOULD ALSO AFFECT THE COMPLE-TION OF PUBLIC WORKS SUCH AS CLEARING LAND AND MAINTAINING ROADS.
...ON MAINTAINING SECURITY AND RESOLVING IMMEDIATE ISSUES.
THIS WILL HAVE A LARGE EFFECT...
USING THE POWER OF THE ARMY...
...TO CLEAR THE LAND IS SIGNIFICANT.
THE PEOPLE WOULD STARVE. THEY NEED TO CLEAR THE LAND BEFORE THEY CAN CULTIVATE IT.
CURRENTLY THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH LAND FOR ALL THE IMMIGRATING REFUGEES TO CULTIVATE.
MAKING ADJUSTMENTS AS YOU GO IS JUST AS IMPORTANT...
...AS LAYING WELL THOUGHT OUT PLANS.
THOUGH HE MAY MAKE SOME MISTAKES, I'M SURE HE'LL HANDLE IT FINE.

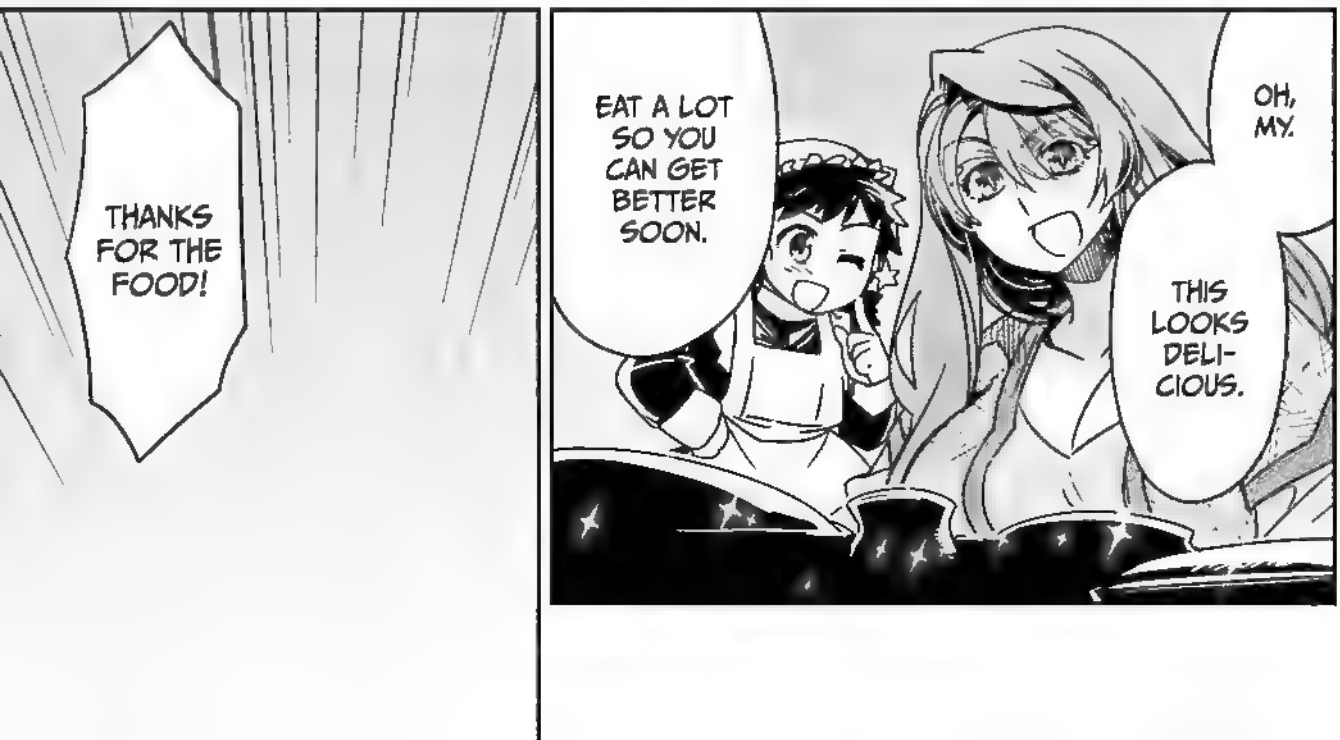

THE NOBLE'S SON TRAVELS BETWEEN KINGDOMS AS A SPECIAL DIPLOMATIC ENVOY OF THE ICE KINGDOM.
HE WINS OVER NATIONS WHO APPEAR SYMPATHETIC TO THE THREE KINGDOM ALLIANCE...
...TO PAVE THE ROAD TO A CONFEDERATION LARGER THAN THREE KINGDOMS.
MANY KINGDOMS AND TERRITORIES DESIRE TRADE AND CONFEDERATION.
HOWEVER, IT'S NOT EASY FOR THEM TO EXPRESS...
...SINCE IT'S VIEWED AS AN ACT OF REBELLION AGAINST THE HOLY KINGDOM AND THE CHURCH.
RED HORSE KINGDOM
THEN THERE'S THE GREAT RED HORSE KINGDOM TO THE EAST.
UNLESS THE RED HORSE KINGDOM JOINS THE ALLIANCE, THE OTHER KINGDOMS WOULD BE FLANKED BY THE CENTRAL CONTINENT'S FORCES.

...AND TOGETHER THEY STOOD AGAINST A HUNDRED BRIGANDS.
...THE NOBLE'S SON HAS BECOME FRIENDS WITH THE PRINCE OF THE RED HORSE KINGDOM...
ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS OF TRAVELING MINSTRELS' SONGS WHICH VERY WELL MAY BE EXAGGERATIONS...
IS THAT TRUE?
HE EVEN ACTED AS A GO-BETWEEN FOR THE PRINCE'S TRAGIC LOVE WITH THE PRINCESS OF ANOTHER KINGDOM.
AS A RESULT, OTHER KINGDOMS ARE SHOWING SIGNS OF FOLLOWING SUIT.
THE RED HORSE KINGDOM FINALLY JOINED THE ALLIANCE.

THAT'S IMPRESSIVE.
THEY'RE NOTHING LIKE THE THREE UNRELIABLE KIDS WHO STARTED TRAINING HERE.
YES.
I AM AMAZED BY HUMAN GROWTH.

EVERY-ONE...
...IS MOVING FORWARD.

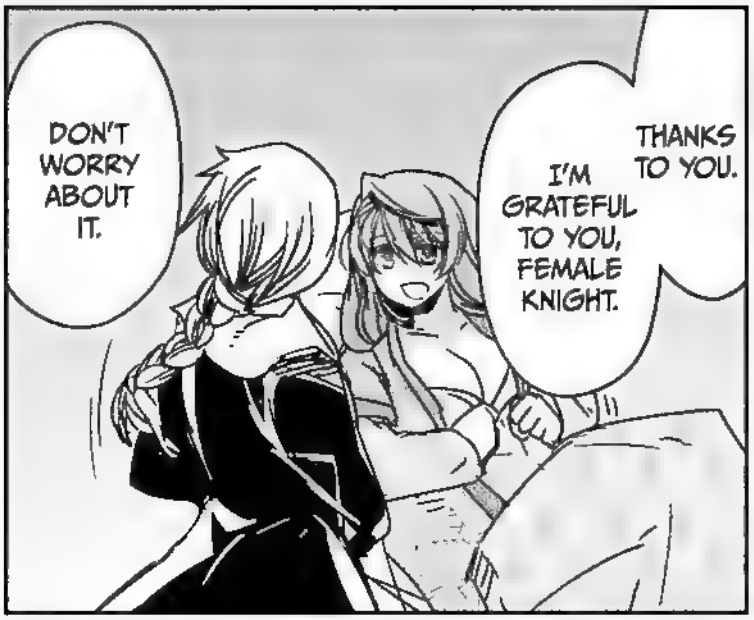
THANKS FOR WAITING!
DINNER IS READY!
CLICK
KNOCK
KNOCK...


THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
EAT A LOT SO YOU CAN GET BETTER SOON.
OH, MY.
THIS LOOKS DELI-CIOUS.

I AGREE.
YOU DON'T OFTEN FIND STEW THIS GOOD EVEN IN A ROYAL PALACE.
THE YOUNGER MAID SISTER GETS BETTER AT COOKING ALL THE TIME.
THIS IS GOOD!
....
....
WHEN DID YOU...
YOU ALWAYS SHOW UP WHEN WE'RE EATING.
HOW RUDE!
CLATTER

WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T SAY THAT.
THANKS FOR DOING THIS.
COUGH
ゴホ
ゴホ
COUGH
OKAY.
I'M STILL TREATING THE DEMON QUEEN.
I'LL TEND TO YOU AFTER DINNER.

GLOW
アア
アア


DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU, FEMALE KNIGHT.
THANKS TO YOU.

IT'S LOOKING MUCH BETTER.

CLICK
カチャ

I'LL DO MY BEST.
...YOU SHOULD BUILD UP YOUR STRENGTH, DEMON QUEEN.
BUT...

HUH?
SURE.
HERO.
COME WITH ME TO THE CONVENT.

YES.
IT'S COMING ALONG WELL.
YOU'RE FINISHED?

AH.
THE WEATHER IS NICE.
I LOVE SPRING-TIME IN THE SNOW COUNTRY.
ME TOO.
IT MAKES YOU HAPPY FOR NO PARTICULAR REASON.
I AGREE.

SO...
...WHAT'S GOING ON, FEMALE KNIGHT?
WHAT?
YOU ASKED ME TO COME WITH YOU.
YOU MUST WANT SOMETHING, RIGHT?
NO.
THERE'S NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.
HUH?
WHAT?!
I JUST WANTED TO WALK WITH YOU.

IS IT THAT STRANGE?
NO, IT'S NOT STRANGE.
STEP
STARE
UMM...
IT MAKES ME SAD TO SEE YOU SO ON GUARD.
WE'VE BEEN BUSY SINCE THEN.
I SIMPLY WANTED TO WALK WITH THE MASTER OF MY SWORD.

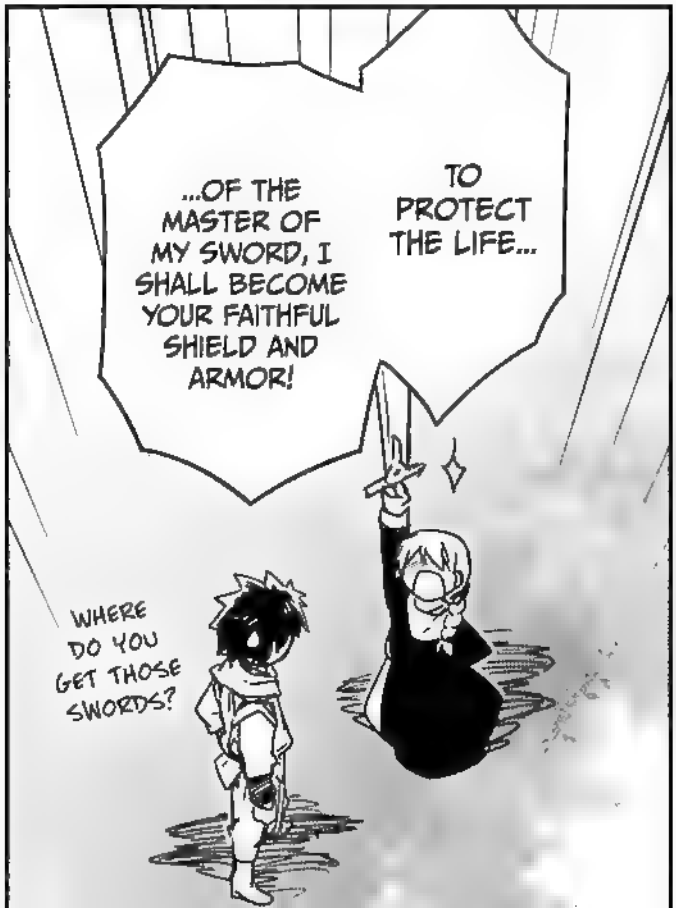
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO DO ANYTHING.
I JUST WANTED TO WALK WITH YOU TO THE CONVENT THROUGH THIS GROVE.
I SEE.

WHAT ?!
WHY WOULD YOU CALL ME THAT?
HEY.
MAS-TER.
もじ
FIDGET
NO, WAIT. THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
I AM FREE TO CALL THE MAN I AM SWORN TO WHATEVER I PLEASE.
YOU ARE MY MASTER.
IN THAT CASE...
MY LORD!
IS THE WORLD CHANGING?!
REALLY ?
I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T MIND WHEN WE'RE ALONE TOGETHER.
DON'T CALL ME THAT.
A TITLE LIKE MASTER IS OUT OF CHARACTER FOR ME.

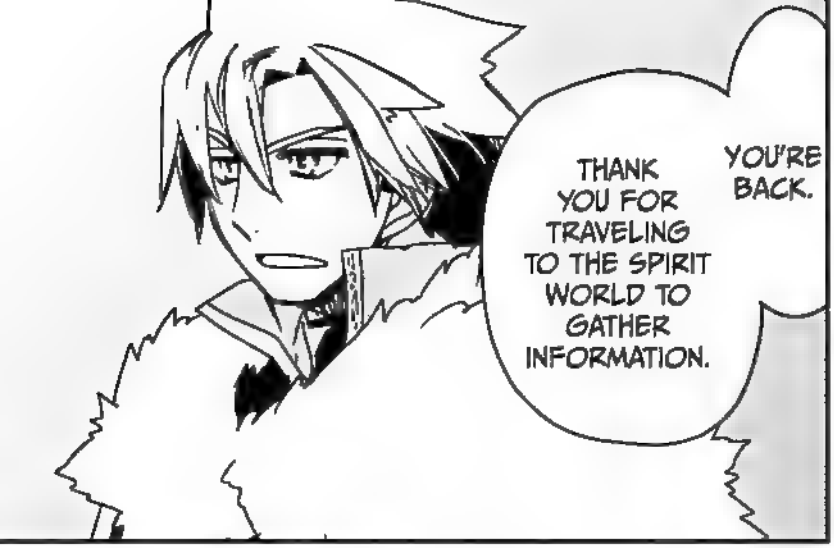
HERO.
WHAT?
UM...
WELL...
もじ
FIDGET
もじ
FIDGET
WILL YOU PRAISE ME?
HUH?
WELL, YOU KNOW!
I TREATED YOUR WOUNDS THIS TIME!
I WORKED PRETTY HARD!
I THINK I DESERVE SOME PRAISE RIGHT NOW!
DESERVE SOME PRAISE?
SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO ASK. I REALLY AM GRATEFUL.
STARE
I AP-PRECIATE YOUR HELP, FEMALE KNIGHT.
YOU DID A LOT FOR US THIS TIME.
I'M GRATE-FUL.

HNNNG
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
PAT
GOOD JOB.
RUB
RUB

YOU SHOULD FIX YOUR SMILE.
SMILE


...OF THE MASTER OF MY SWORD, I SHALL BECOME YOUR FAITHFUL SHIELD AND ARMOR!
TO PROTECT THE LIFE...
WHERE DO YOU GET THOSE SWORDS?

MASTER!
DON'T DO THAT.
DRAW

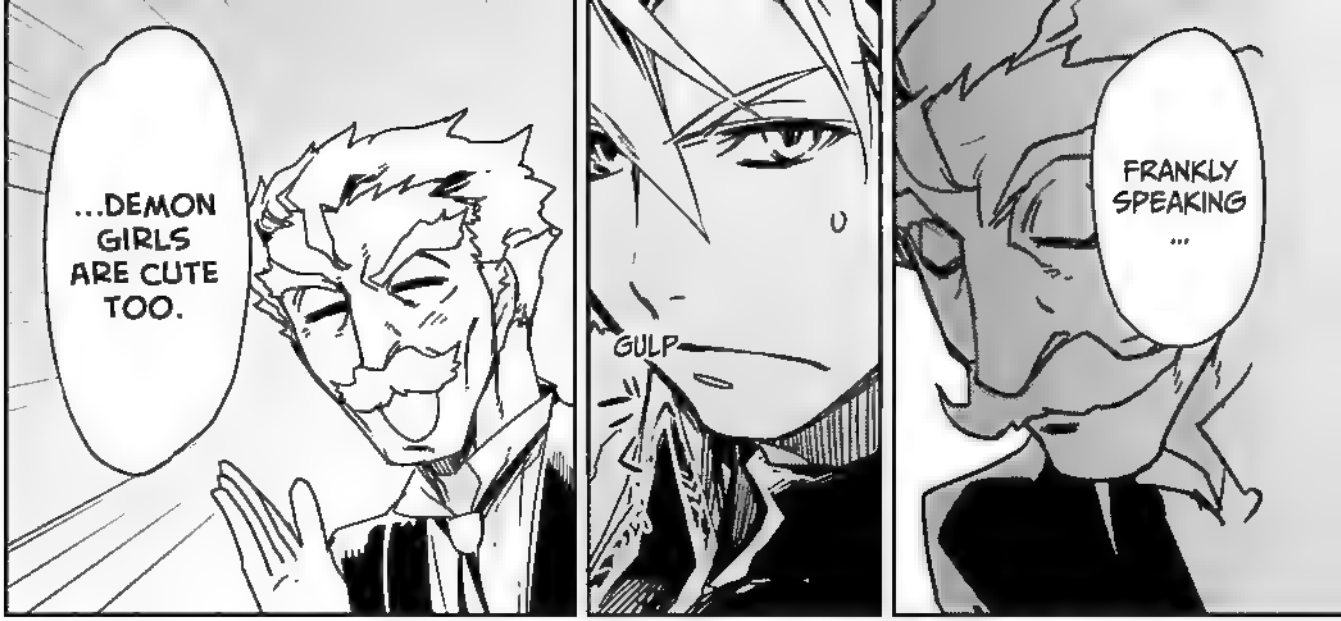

YOU'RE BACK.
THANK YOU FOR TRAVELING TO THE SPIRIT WORLD TO GATHER INFORMATION.

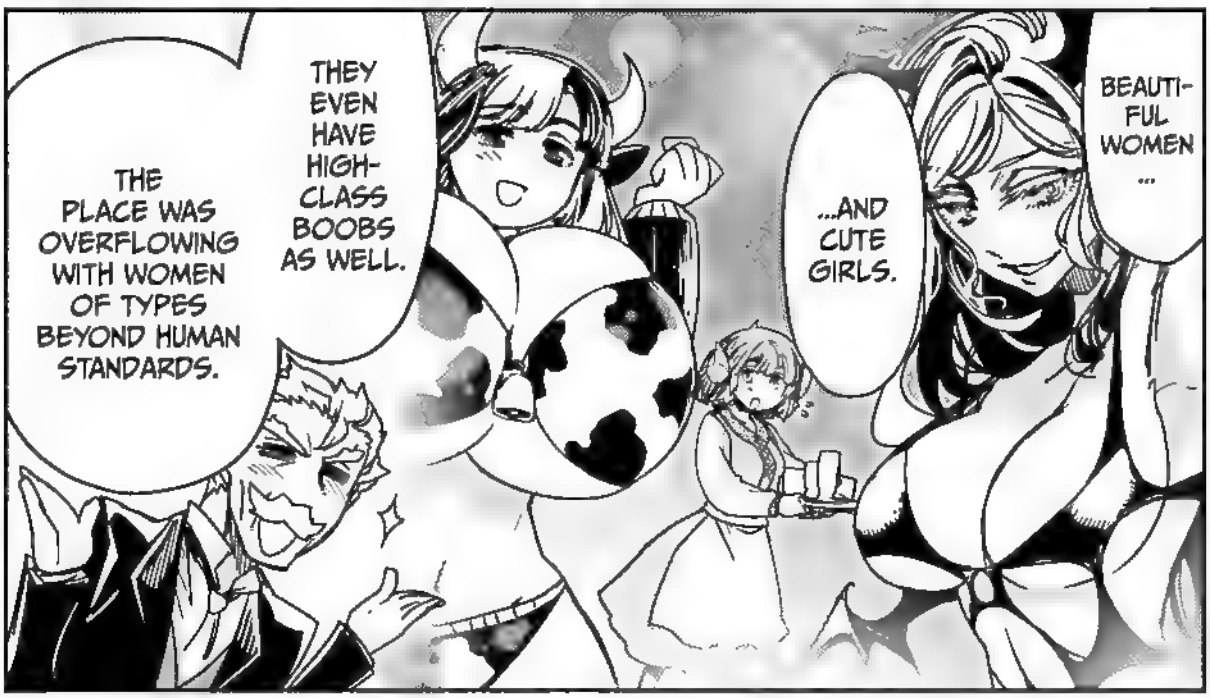
YES, SIR.
I HAVE SEEN THE SPIRIT WORLD WITH MY OWN EYES.

THE RESIDENTS OF THE SUBTERRANEAN WORLD...
THE SO-CALLED DEMONS...

WELL?
HOW WAS IT?

I HAVE...
...RENEWED MY VOW!


FRANKLY SPEAKING ...
GULP
...DEMON GIRLS ARE CUTE TOO.


BEAUTI-FUL WOMEN ...
...AND CUTE GIRLS.
THEY EVEN HAVE HIGH-CLASS BOOBS AS WELL.
THE PLACE WAS OVERFLOWING WITH WOMEN OF TYPES BEYOND HUMAN STANDARDS.

THE SONGS OF THE YOUNG TRAVELING MINSTREL I MET WERE INCREDIBLE AS WELL.
WAIT!
WAIT!
IS THAT THE ONLY THING YOU LOOKED AT?
I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS REAC-TION.
ISN'T IT THE MOST IMPOR-TANT THING?

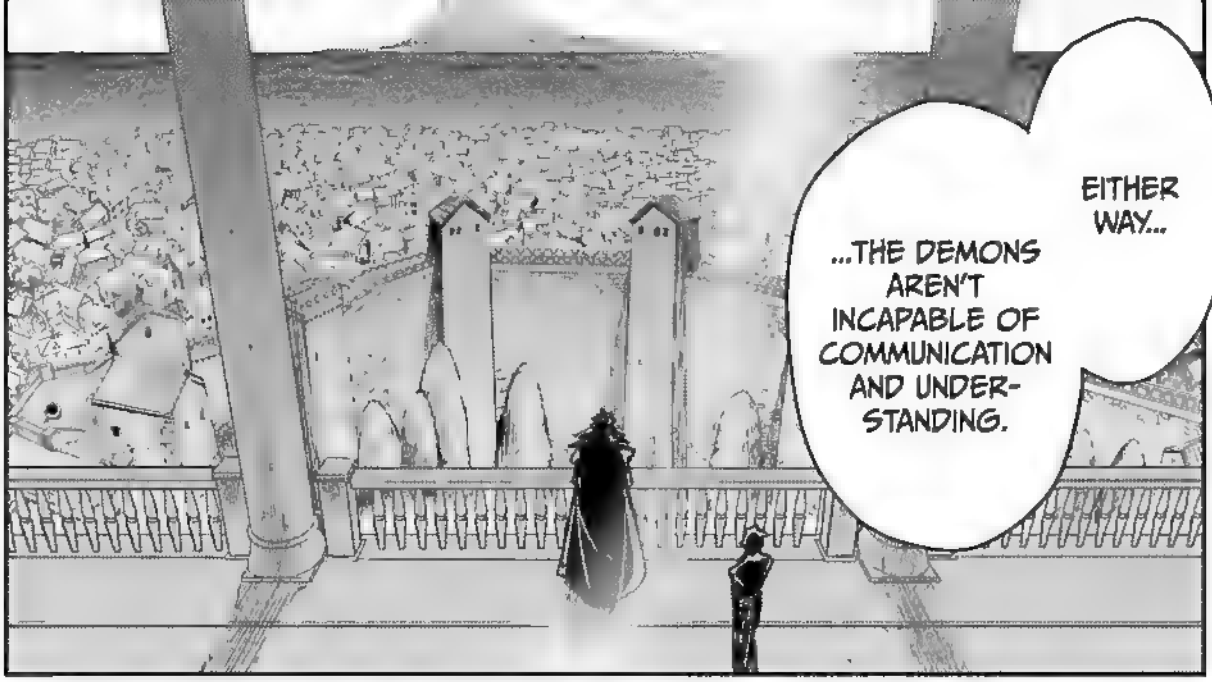
THE DEMONS ARE NOT AS EVIL AS THE CHURCH CLAIMS.
THEIR FORMS AND CULTURE ARE DIFFERENT FROM OURS...
...BUT THEY LAUGH AND LIVE NORMAL LIVES.
THEY HAVE TAKEN ROOT IN THE SPIRIT WORLD.
THEY HAVE SOULS.
SOULS ...

I SEE.
THE MAJOR CLANS GATHERED FOR A CONFERENCE TO DETERMINE THE DIRECTION OF THE DEMONS.
YES, SIR.
IT SEEMS THE DEMON MONARCH IS NOT AN ABSOLUTE RULER.
THE DEMON MON-ARCH...
DID YOU SEE HIM?
WHAT KIND OF MAN WAS HE?
UNFORTU-NATELY, I WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM HIS APPEARANCE.

ONE OF THE CLANS SECEDED FROM THE DEMON MONARCH DURING THE CONFERENCE.
THE DEMON MONARCH WAS INJURED AT THE MEETING.

THE DEMONS AREN'T MONO-LITHIC.
THEY'RE UNLIKELY TO INVADE THE SURFACE FOR A WHILE.
I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE.

THOUGH THE REBELLION OF A SINGLE CLAN HASN'T SPLIT THE SPIRIT WORLD IN TWO...
...THE SITUATION IS STILL UNSTABLE.
WE MUST BE CAREFUL.
I SEE.

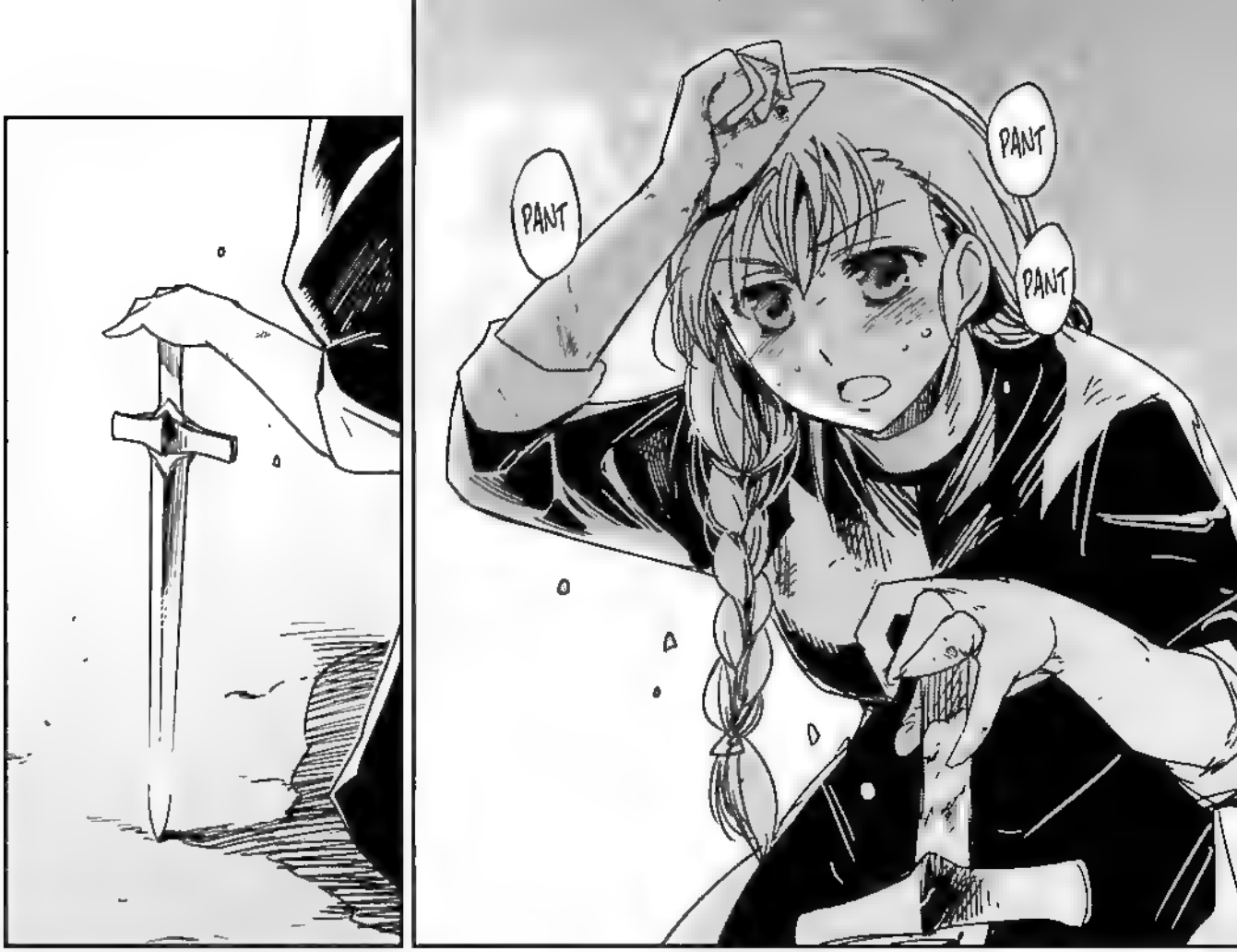

EITHER WAY...
...THE DEMONS AREN'T INCAPABLE OF COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING.

I WOULD NEVER HAVE KNOWN IF I HAD VIEWED THEM ONLY AS ENEMIES.
YES, SIR.
I FEEL AS THOUGH MY EYES HAVE FINALLY BEEN OPENED.

THE HUMANS OF THE SURFACE.
THE DEMONS OF THE SUBTERRANEAN WORLD.

WE'RE BOTH CREATURES WITH SOULS...
...STAND-ING ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE SAME WORLD.

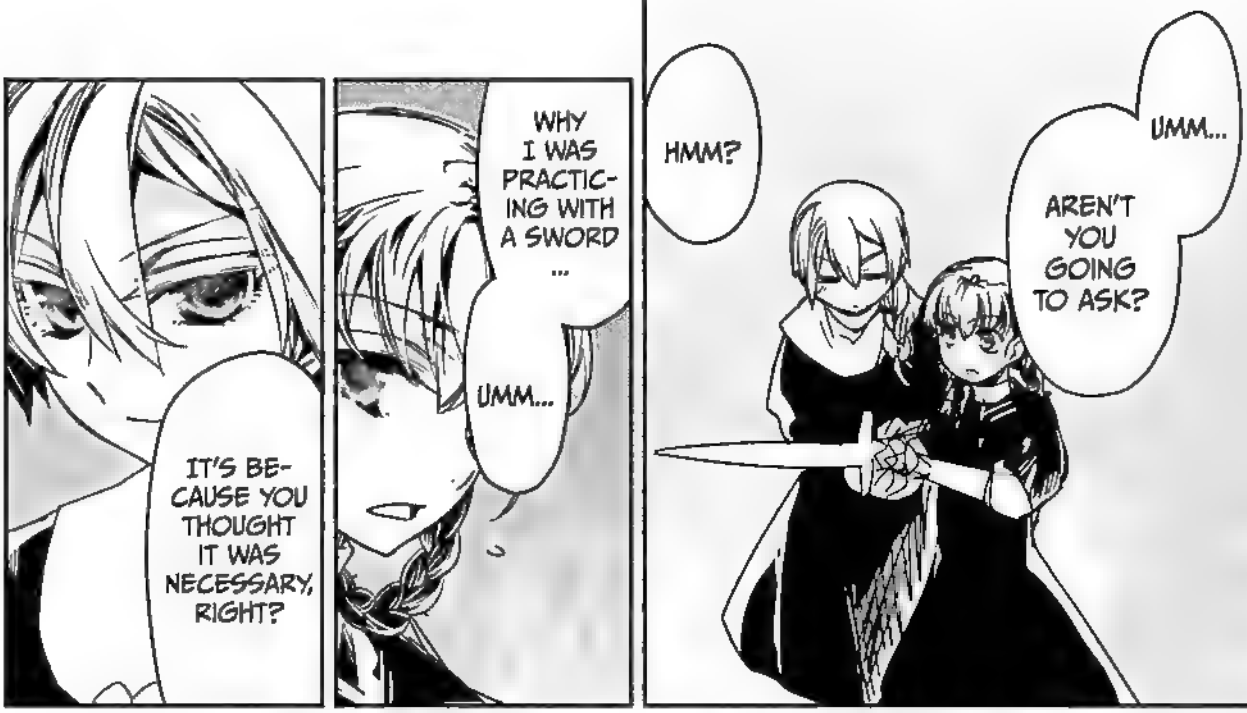
PANT
PANT
CLACK
WHACK
CLANG
CLANG


PANT
PANT
PANT

FEMALE KNIGHT.
IT'S ME.
STEP
TURN

....
SHOW ME YOUR HANDS.
I'M SORRY FOR SURPRISING YOU.
IT'S FINE.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
REACH
FLASH

DON'T LOOK SO DIS-TRESSED.
I WON'T TELL ANY-ONE.
....
THANK YOU.
JUST LOOK AT THE AGE WE LIVE IN.
EVERYONE NEEDS TO LEARN TO PROTECT THEM-SELVES.
YES, MA'AM.
YOU NEED TO USE YOUR LEGS MORE.
MY LEGS?
Y-YES, MA'AM!
COME ON!
STAND UP STRAIGHT!
JUMP
WHACK

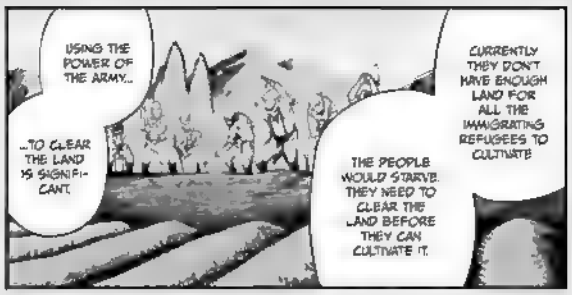


THE END

CHAPTER 32
I Just Wanted to Walk With You

ARMED FORCES of the MIDDLE AGES

During the middle ages when materials and food were scarce, it was necessary to devise strategies to support an army.


USING THE POWER OF THE ARMY...
...TO CLEAR THE LAND IS SIGNIFICANT.
THE PEOPLE WOULD STARVE. THEY NEED TO CLEAR THE LAND BEFORE THEY CAN CULTIVATE IT.
CURRENTLY THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH LAND FOR ALL THE IMMIGRATING REFUGEES TO CULTIVATE

The power of the army is useful off the battlefield as well for clearing land.

The Tuntian System Under Which Soldiers Cleared and Cultivated Land

Most modern armies are standing armies that remain marshaled during times of peace as well as war. Under the feudal system of the middle ages, armies were generally only assembled when they were needed.

Maintaining a standing army requires considerable economic strength, but at the time communities could not afford to feed large groups of people not involved in production.

Even in the feudal societies of the middle ages, advances in agricultural methods and tools expanded the amount of arable land available and improved crop yield. However, improvements in the food situation led to a population increase, and people would starve immediately when crops failed.

Land owning feudal lords and knights were the core of the armies of the middle ages. Landowners ruled their land under the pretext of protecting their people and armed their forces at their own expense. Like a standing army, soldiers were equipped to fight at all times, but they were not always standing by for battle. Many low ranking knights with smaller territories cultivated their own land. Like minutemen, many people were both farmers and soldiers.

In this work, the Soldier's Son is seen wielding a hoe and clearing land. This system is known as "tuntian" and was actually used by the Roman Empire and ancient China. Armies were dispatched to the uncleared wilderness near the border to clear the land and create farms. The soldiers worked the land and were responsible for supporting themselves and defending the area. There were several advantages to the tuntian system. Sending an army to clear the land meant the work was conducted in a systematic manner, and because the soldiers were self sufficient, they didn't require shipments food from the interior. Owning the land they cleared increased the soldiers' desire to defend it, and it was also effective at raising morale.

THE ARMY HIRES THEM TO SERVE AS ENGINEERS.
DURING TIMES OF PEACE, THEY WORK THE FIELDS, FORMING A HALF AGRICULTURAL AND HALF MILITARISTIC ORGANIZATION.

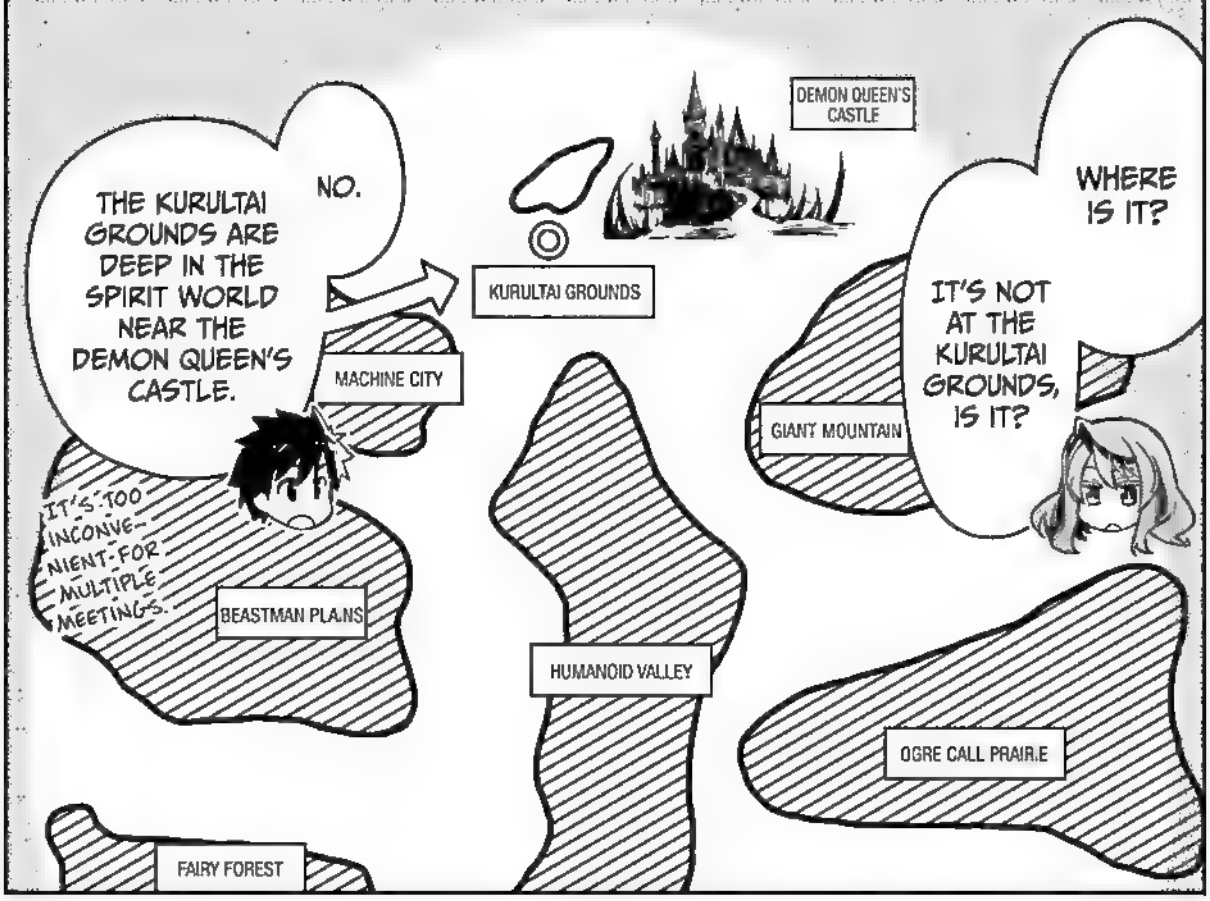
In the large continuous landmass of Europe, the tuntian system was effective for dealing with immigrants.

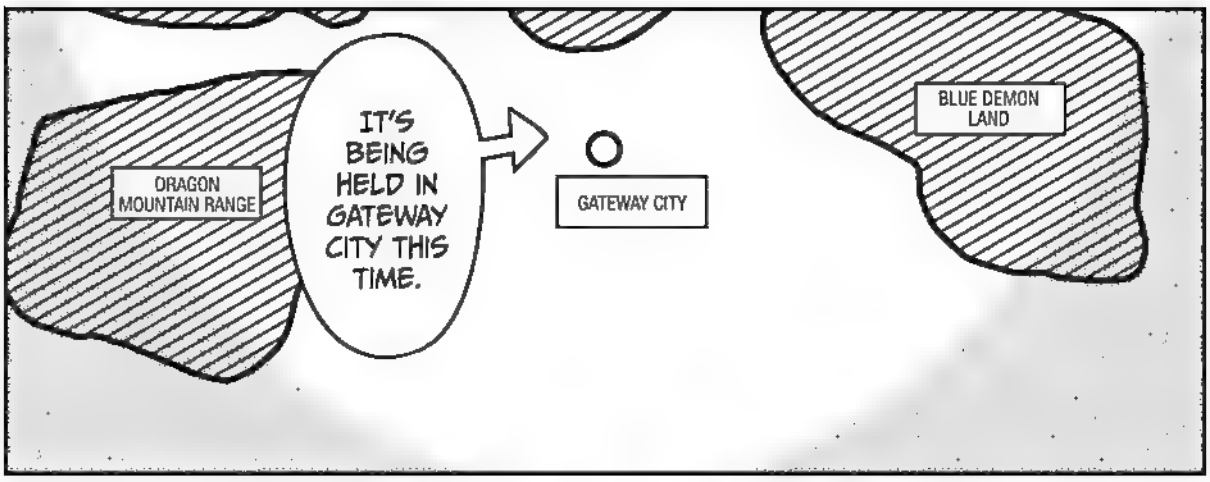
The Roman Empire sent tuntian soldiers to newly captured lands to maintain waterways and roads in addition to clearing land. Because regions received this benefits once they became a Roman province, some regions readily joined the Roman Empire. Sometimes immigrants of other ethnic groups were made into tuntian soldiers. Because the system allowed for the creation of living spaces for immigrants without dividing the land of domestic landowners, it also served as an effective measure for handling immigrants. The tuntian system was utilized in Japan during the Meiji Era, and many people assisted with the cultivation of Hokkaido.

THE DARKNESS THAT LIES AHEAD

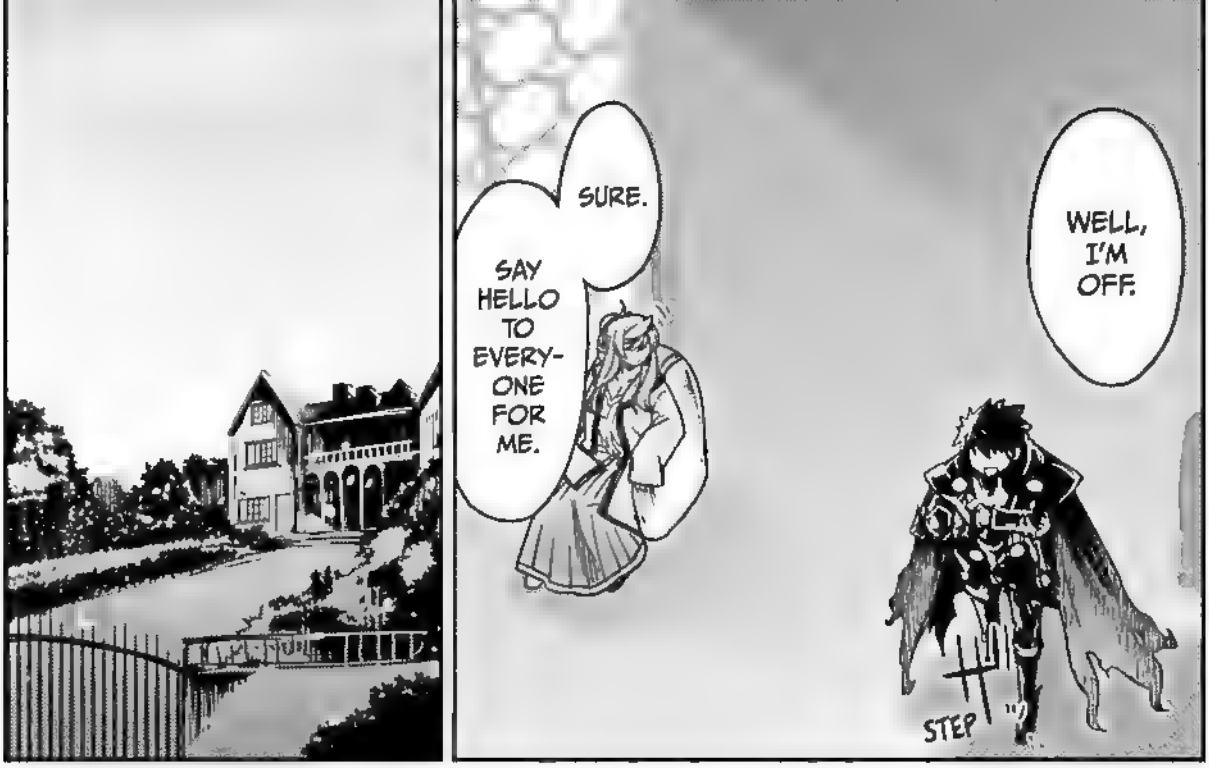
THE VILLAGE OF THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT IS GREAT.
SINCE COMING HERE, I HAVEN'T MISSED A MEAL.
IT'S TIME TO EAT.
CLANG
OOH
OOH
CLANG
BUT...
YEAH.
FOR SURE.
IT'S SO GOOD.
I'D FORGOTTEN WHAT WHEAT BREAD TASTED LIKE UNTIL I CAME HERE.
I GUESS SO...
IT'S A GLORI-OUS CAUSE.
THAT'S WHAT THE BISHOP SAID.
IT'S A HOLY WAR TO RECLAIM THE HOLY RELIC OF THE SPIRIT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YEAH! THAT'S RIGHT.
WE'RE TRAINING TO FIGHT, RIGHT?
ARE THEY SENDING US TO WAR?

MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
CHAPTER 33


DEMON QUEEN'S CASTLE
NO.
THE KURULTAI GROUNDS ARE DEEP IN THE SPIRIT WORLD NEAR THE DEMON QUEEN'S CASTLE.
KURULTAI GROUNDS
MACHINE CITY
IT'S TOO INCONVENIENT FOR MULTIPLE MEETINGS.
BEASTMAN PLAINS
HUMANOID VALLEY
GIANT MOUNTAIN
WHERE IS IT?
IT'S NOT AT THE KURULTAI GROUNDS, IS IT?
OGRE CALL PRAIRIE
FAIRY FOREST


DRAGON MOUNTAIN RANGE
IT'S BEING HELD IN GATEWAY CITY THIS TIME.
GATEWAY CITY
BLUE DEMON LAND

THERE YOU GO AGAIN...
WHAT?
I HOPE ARCHDUKE FIRE DRAGON AND PRINCESS FIRE DRAGON ARE DOING WELL.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST VISITED GATEWAY CITY.
I SEE.



CHAPTER 33 Archenemy and Hero

Roads

THE SECOND MEETING WILL NOW BEGIN.

THOUGH THE RETURN OF THE SEAL KING'S ARMY INITIALLY CAUSED SOME TENSION IN BLUE DEMON TERRITORY...

...THE SITUATION HAS SETTLED DOWN SOME SINCE THEN.

THE BLUE DEMON ARMY HAS MADE NO MAJOR MOVE-MENTS.

THE FAIRIES HAVE A REPORT TO MAKE.

THE FANGED DEMONS HAVE A SUGGESTION.
HMPH.
MURMUR
WE WILL CONTINUE WHERE WE LEFT OFF...
...DISCUSSING HOW WE SHOULD HANDLE THE BLUE DEMONS.
WHICH MEANS ...
BIP?
THE BLUE DEMONS ARE NOT MOVING FOR THE TIME BEING.
MURMUR
BZZ

A SURRENDER PROPOSAL?

WHY DON'T WE SEND THEM A LETTER...
...RECOMMENDING THEY SURRENDER?

"A WARRIOR MUST NOT STOOP TO ASSASSINATIONS AND SNEAK ATTACKS.
NO CLAN WOULD RECOGNIZE THE DIGNITY OF THE BLUE DEMON CLAN...
...IF YOU TOOK SUCH A PERVERSE APPROACH TO THIS CONFLICT."
"IF YOU WISH TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF, SHOW YOURSELF BEFORE US
IF YOU DESIRE WAR, WE WILL MEET YOU ON THE BATTLEFIELD."

WE'LL HAVE TO SETTLE THE CONFLICT ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.
FURTHER-MORE, SHOULD THEY IGNORE OUR LETTER OR PONTIFICATE...
...IT'S THE SAME AS SAYING THEY DESIRE WAR.
BY SENDING THEM THIS LETTER...
...WE WILL GIVE THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THEMSELVES.

"YOUR CHIEF AND ARMY COMMITTED THESE CRIMES.
THE CONFERENCE OF CLANS HAVE PUNISHED THEM ACCORDINGLY AND NOT OUT OF SELF INTEREST."
EVEN IF WE DESTROY THE BLUE DEMON FORCES ON THE BATTLE-FIELD...
...WE CAN GO TO THEIR CAPITAL AND TELL THEIR PEOPLE...

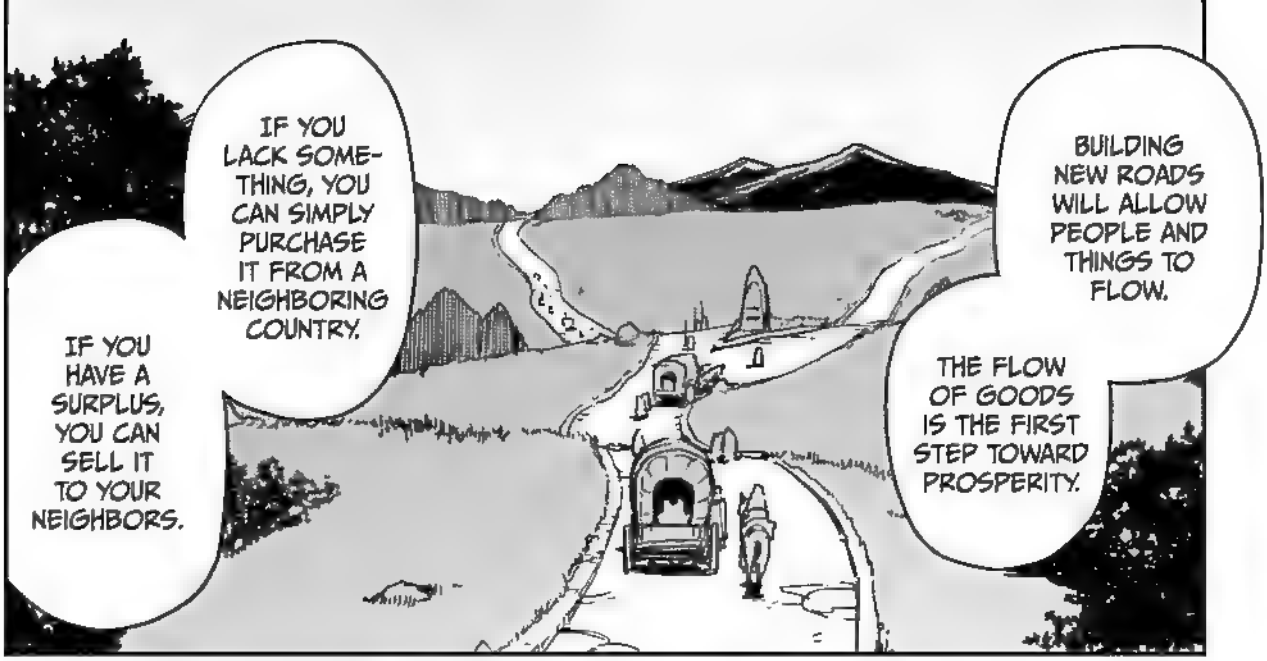
THOSE OLD MEN CAN BE USEFUL SOME-TIMES!
I SOUGHT WISDOM FROM THE ELDERS OF THE FANGED DEMON CLAN!
HA! HA! HA! HA!
MR. TIGER, I'VE CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT YOU.
I SEE...
OOH...

VERY WELL.
THE LETTER WILL BE WRITTEN BY...
...THE PATTERNED CHIEF OF THE HUMANOID DEMON CLAN.
THEN...
...WE SHALL SEND THEM A LETTER.
WHAT ELSE MUST WE DISCUSS?
ALLOW ME...
...TO INTRODUCE ONE OF THE PEOPLE RESPON-SIBLE FOR CONDUCTING IMPORTANT MATTERS WITHIN THE CITY.
THE GATEWAY CLAN HAS A REQUEST.
CLATTER

I HAVE COME AT THE INVITATION OF THE GATEWAY CLAN'S CHIEF.
I AM PRINCESS FIRE DRAGON OF THE DRAGON CLAN.
IT IS A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.

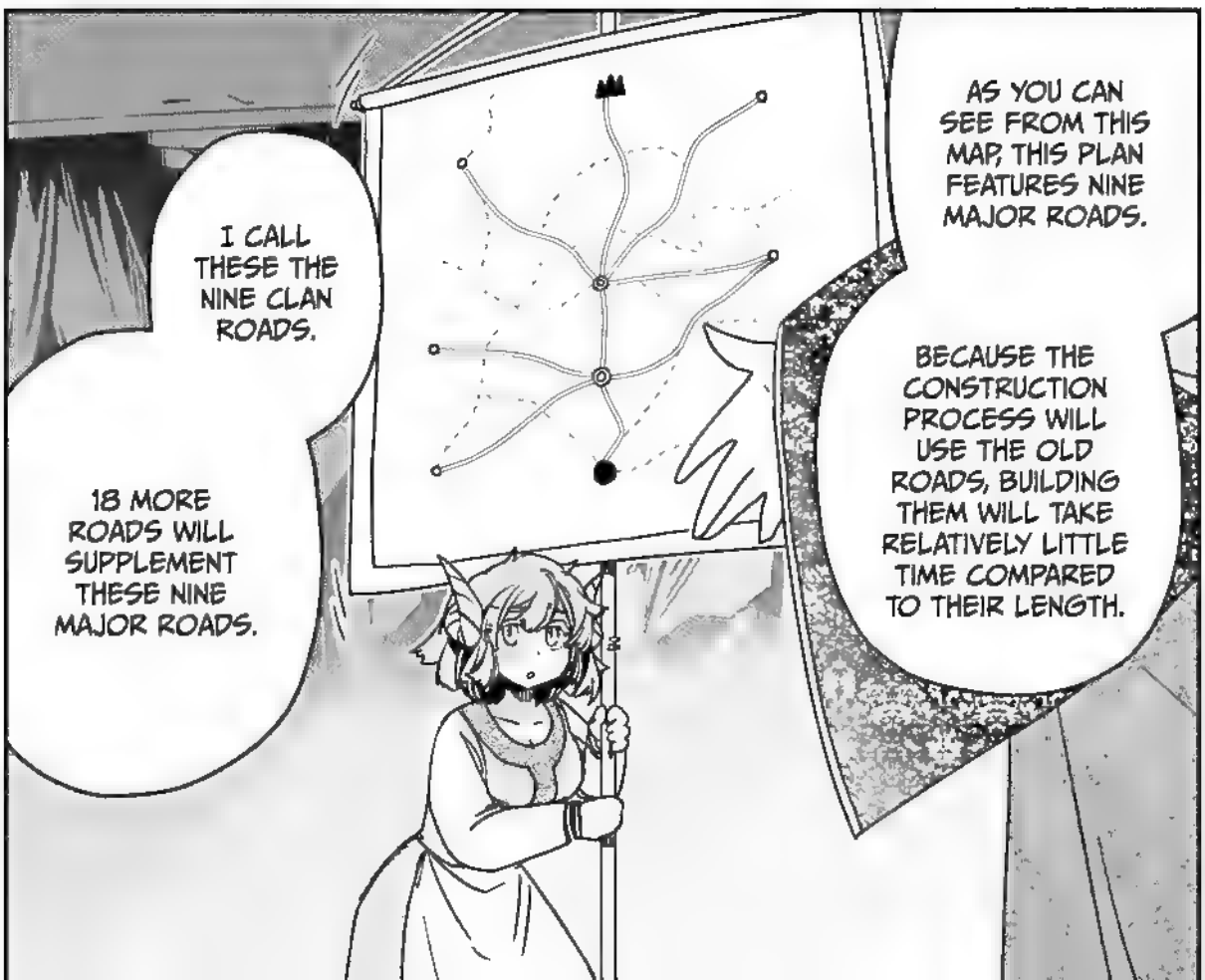
SO...
...WHAT IS YOUR RE-QUEST ?
おお... OOH
OOH THE ARCH-DUKE'S DAUGH-TER.
I'VE HEARD ABOUT HER
WELL, WELL
さわ... MURMUR
さわ... MURMUR

WE WANT TO FIX THESE THINGS.
THIS WORLD'S ROADS HAVE FALLEN INTO RUIN DUE TO YEARS OF CONFLICT.
BRIDGES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD REMAIN BURNT.
THE PRINCESS CAN TELL YOU ABOUT THAT.
...BUT IT WILL REQUIRE A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF FUNDS AND LABOR.
THEY ARE CAUSE FOR CONCERN...
THE ROADS?
HOW DOES SIMPLY BUILDING ROADS BENEFIT US?
REBUILDING THE MAIN ROADS WILL YIELD AMPLE BENEFITS.
I CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION AT THE REQUEST OF GATEWAY CITY'S SELF GOVERNING ASSEMBLY.
YES, SIR.

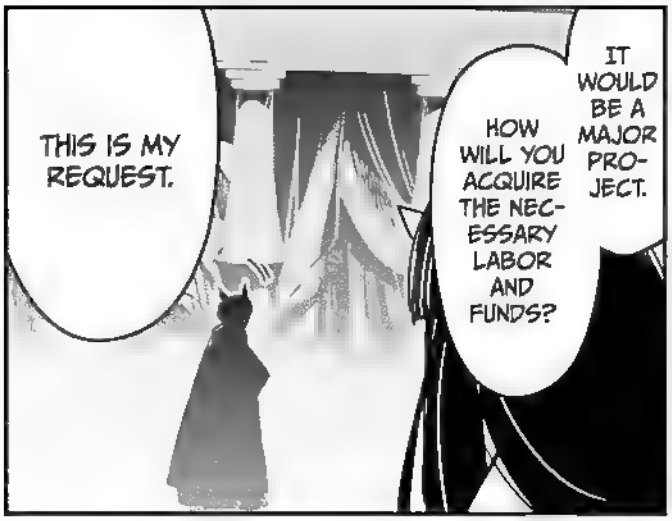

IF YOU LACK SOMETHING, YOU CAN SIMPLY PURCHASE IT FROM A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY.
IF YOU HAVE A SURPLUS, YOU CAN SELL IT TO YOUR NEIGHBORS.
BUILDING NEW ROADS WILL ALLOW PEOPLE AND THINGS TO FLOW.
THE FLOW OF GOODS IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD PROSPERITY.

TAXES?
I SEE.

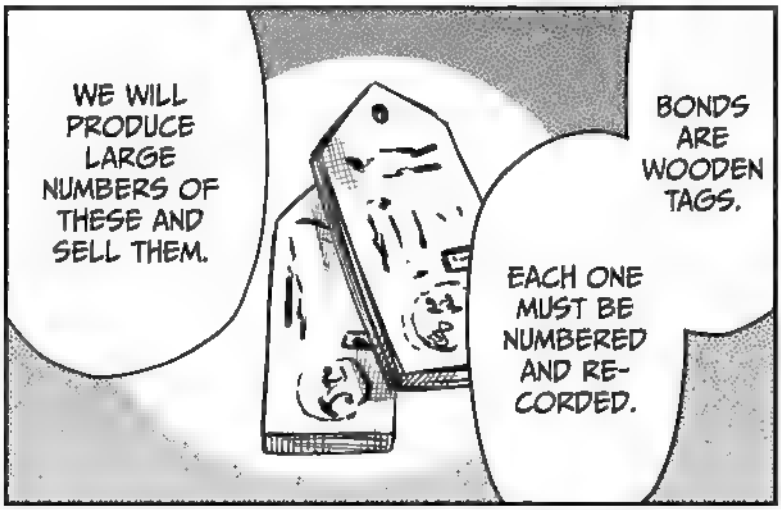
EVERY TIME MERCHANTS TRAVEL UP AND DOWN THE ROADS, WE CAN COLLECT TAXES FROM THEM.


I CALL THESE THE NINE CLAN ROADS.
18 MORE ROADS WILL SUPPLEMENT THESE NINE MAJOR ROADS.
AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS MAP, THIS PLAN FEATURES NINE MAJOR ROADS.
BECAUSE THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS WILL USE THE OLD ROADS, BUILDING THEM WILL TAKE RELATIVELY LITTLE TIME COMPARED TO THEIR LENGTH.

THIS WILL PROTECT THE ROADS...
...FROM THE FLOODING OF LARGE RIVERS THAT HAS TROUBLED OUR WORLD FOR YEARS.
IF NECESSARY, WE WILL RAISE THE TERRAIN AND LEVEL VALLEYS.
THE ROADS WILL BE PAVED WITH STONE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
ADDITIONALLY...
...WATERWAYS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED ALONGSIDE IMPORTANT SECTIONS OF THE NINE CLAN ROADS FOR IRRIGATION.
TREES WILL BE PLANTED AT REGULAR INTERVALS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD.
THEIR ROOTS WILL GRASP THE EARTH AND PREVENT LANDSLIDES.
WE MUST DEVELOP METHODS TO TRANSPORT WATER FROM REGIONS RICH WITH WATER...
...TO DRIER REGIONS TO SECURE THEIR SAFETY.
IN THE SUBTERRANEAN SPIRIT WORLD...
...THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REGIONS WITH AND WITHOUT WATER IS TOO GREAT.


THIS IS MY REQUEST.
HOW WILL YOU ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY LABOR AND FUNDS?
IT WOULD BE A MAJOR PROJECT.

THE NINE CLAN ROADS WILL TAKE NINE YEARS TO BUILD...
...AND THE 18 BYROADS WILL TAKE NINE MORE.


WE WILL PRODUCE LARGE NUMBERS OF THESE AND SELL THEM.
BONDS ARE WOODEN TAGS.
EACH ONE MUST BE NUMBERED AND RECORDED.

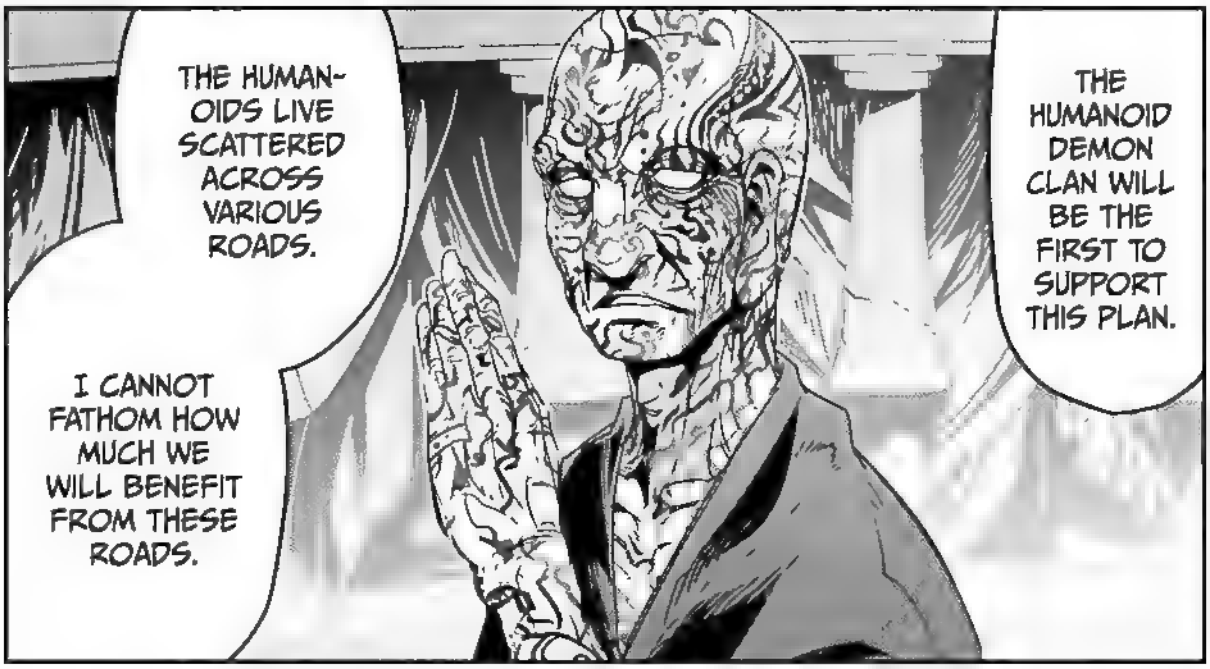
BONDS ?
WE WILL ISSUE BONDS.

IN OTHER WORDS, WE'LL COLLECT THE TAXES FIRST.
YES.

...A SINGLE ONE OF HIS CARTS MAY TRAVEL THE NINE CLAN ROADS WITHOUT PAYING TAXES.
HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
FOR EACH BOND A MERCHANT HAS...

ARE THE BONDS EXPENSIVE?
THEY SHOULD BE APPROPRIATELY EXPENSIVE.
HOWEVER, MAKING THEM MORE EXPENSIVE THAN PAYING TAXES LATER WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.
THE VALUE OF THE BONDS WILL DEPEND ON THE MERCHANTS' IMAGINATION.
THOSE WHO DECIDED TO PAY THEIR TAXES LATER ARE FREE TO DO SO AS WELL.
THE UNFAIRNESS OF TAXES AND LOANS...
...IS MORE LIKELY TO GENERATE ANTIPATHY AMONG THE PEOPLE THAN THEIR AMOUNT.
IF WE EXPLAIN THE USEFULNESS OF ROADS...
...AND HIGHER-RANKING DEMONS PURCHASE BONDS, I BELIEVE IT WILL GO WELL.
....
WE...
...DO NOT HAVE...
... MUCH MONEY.
I KNOW.
WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THE GIANT CLAN MONEY WE EARN FROM THE BONDS INSTEAD...
...AND ASK THAT IN EXCHANGE YOU USE YOUR STRONG ARMS TO AID THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROADS.

ざわ
CHATTER
ざわ
CHATTER
WILL WATER COME TO OUR TERRITORY?
CERTAINLY.


THE HUMANOIDS LIVE SCATTERED ACROSS VARIOUS ROADS.
I CANNOT FATHOM HOW MUCH WE WILL BENEFIT FROM THESE ROADS.
THE HUMANOID DEMON CLAN WILL BE THE FIRST TO SUPPORT THIS PLAN.

WE WILL ALSO DISCUSS HOW WE CAN CONTRIBUTE.
YOU CAN EXPECT A POSITIVE ANSWER FROM US.
I CANNOT GIVE YOU MY ANSWER IMMEDIATELY, BUT WE WILL DISCUSS THE MATTER AS SOON AS I RETURN TO MY TERRITORY.
INTERESTING.

...I CANNOT ANSWER...
...WITHOUT DISCUSSING THIS IMPORTANT MATTER WITH MY PEOPLE FIRST.
WE ABSTAIN. THOUGH WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE INFLUX OF IRON...
WE SUPPORT...
...THIS PLAN.
WE SHOULD TAKE SOME TIME...
...TO ALLOW THE CLANS TO ESTABLISH THEIR OPINIONS.
WHEN OUR OPINIONS ARE DIVIDED, THE MAJORITY DECIDES...
...BUT IN THIS CASE, NO ONE IS CLEARLY OPPOSED.
RUSTLE
THIS CONCLUDES...
...THIS MEETING!

THAT WAS QUITE THE IMPRES-SIVE PLAN.
IT WAS REALLY COOL
I AM PLEASED TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT.

MAN.
WHAT A SUR-PRISE.

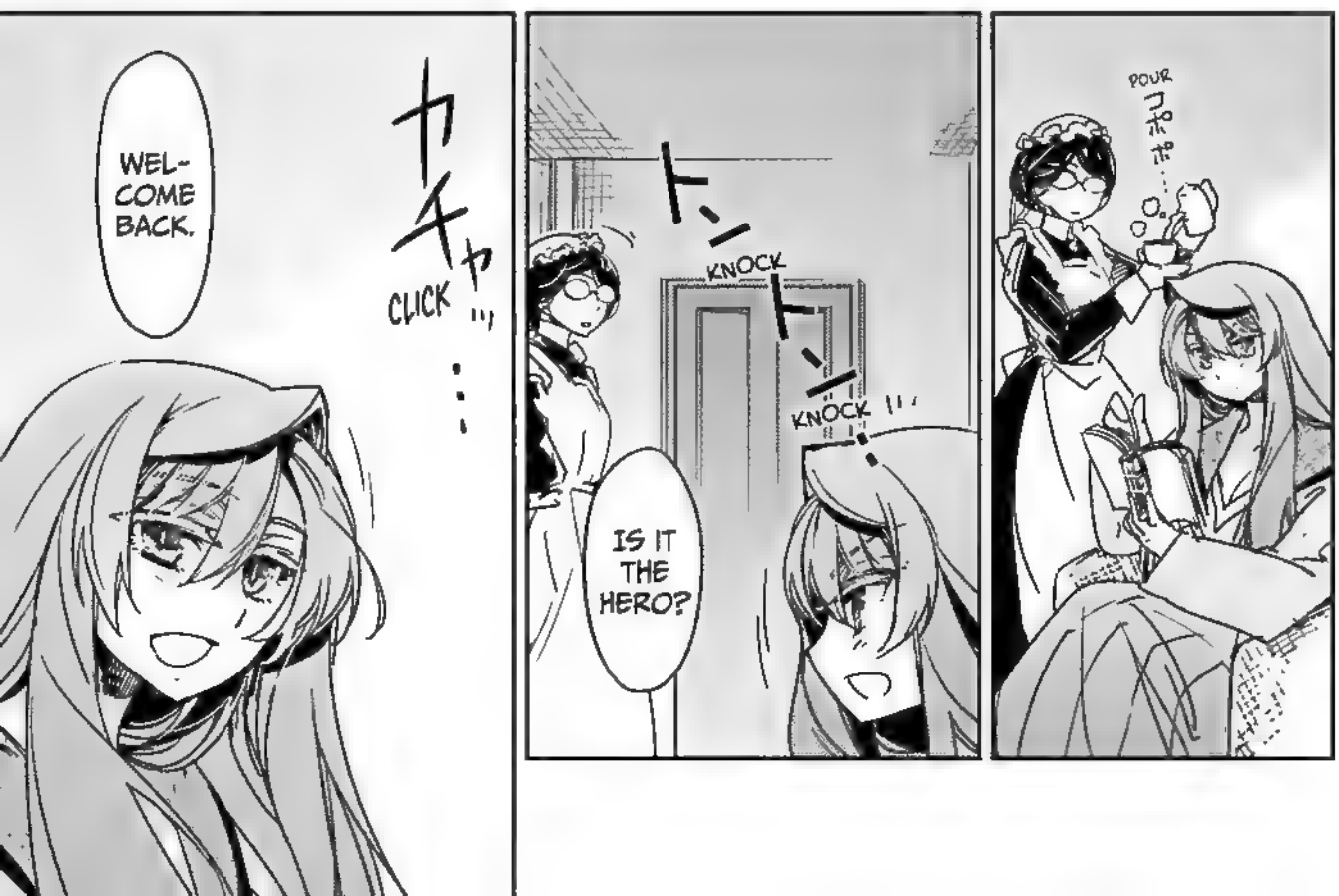
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU...
HUH?

MAY I ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR...
...HERO ?

WE'RE TERRIBLY SORRY
WE TOLD HER EVERY-THING.
SORRY

HERO ?!
HOW DID YOU KNOW?

I WANT TO SEE THE DEMON QUEEN.

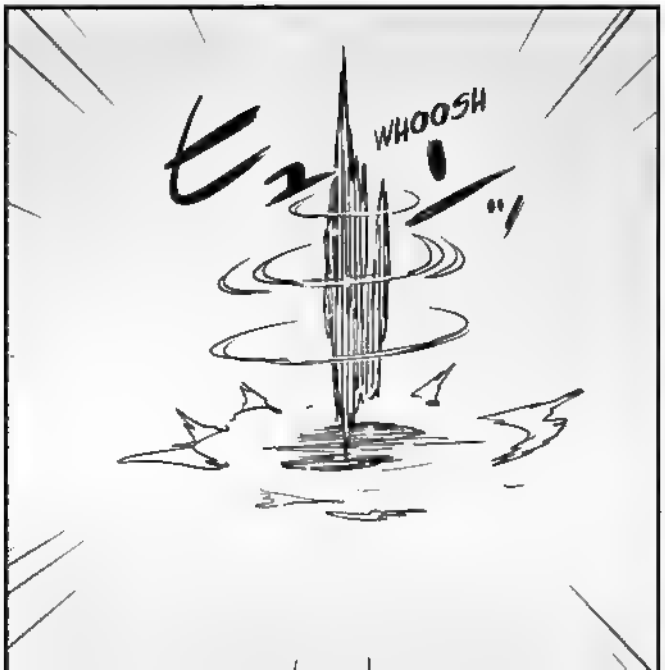

POUR
コポポ…
トントン
KNOCK
KNOCK !!
IS IT THE HERO?
カチャ
CLICK !!!
…
WEL-COME BACK.

SLAM

カチャ
CLICK

THE PRINCESS IS LEAVING.
TAKE HER HOME.

SURE.


WHOOSH

BLACK KNIGHT.
RATHER, HERO...
UH...
I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE CITY.
THERE IS SOMETHING I NEED YOU TO CLARIFY.
YOU HAVE REJECTED ME, HAVEN'T YOU?

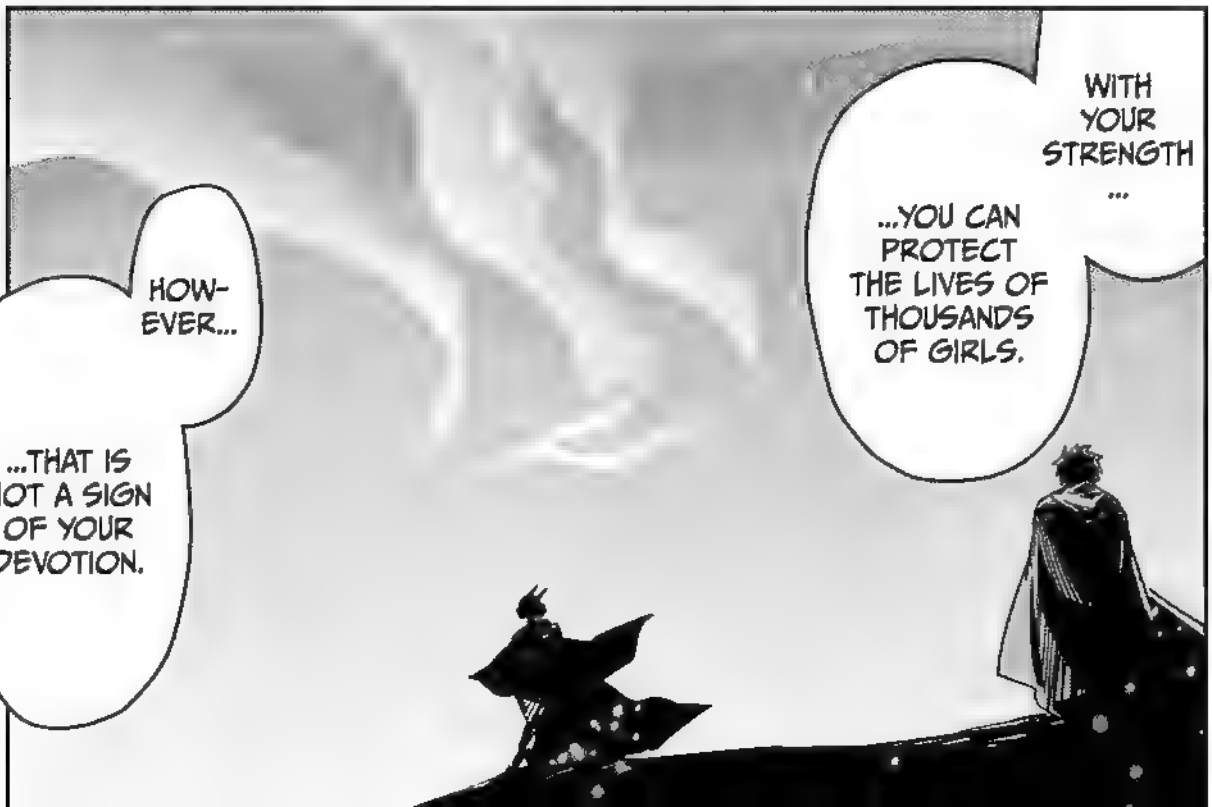
EVERY-ONE?
EVERYONE'S IMPORTANT TO ME, THOUGH.
....
YEAH.
SOMEONE ELSE IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU, YES?

IMPORTANT ENOUGH THAT...
...I'D RISK MY LIFE TO SAVE YOU FROM DANGER.
THEN...
...HOW IMPORTANT AM I?

NORMAL MEN ARE NOT AS STRONG AS YOU.
THEY CAN PROTECT AT MOST ONE GIRL.
FOR THEM, THOSE WORDS AND THE ACT OF PROTECTING HER...
...ARE A CONFESSION OF HIS FEELINGS.
?
YOUR WORDS ARE QUITE CONFUSING, HERO.
GIGGLE
クスクス
YOU MUST NEVER SPEAK THOSE WORDS RASHLY.
FEEDING A STRAY WITHOUT TAKING IT IN...
...IS SOMETHING YOU MUST NEVER DO.

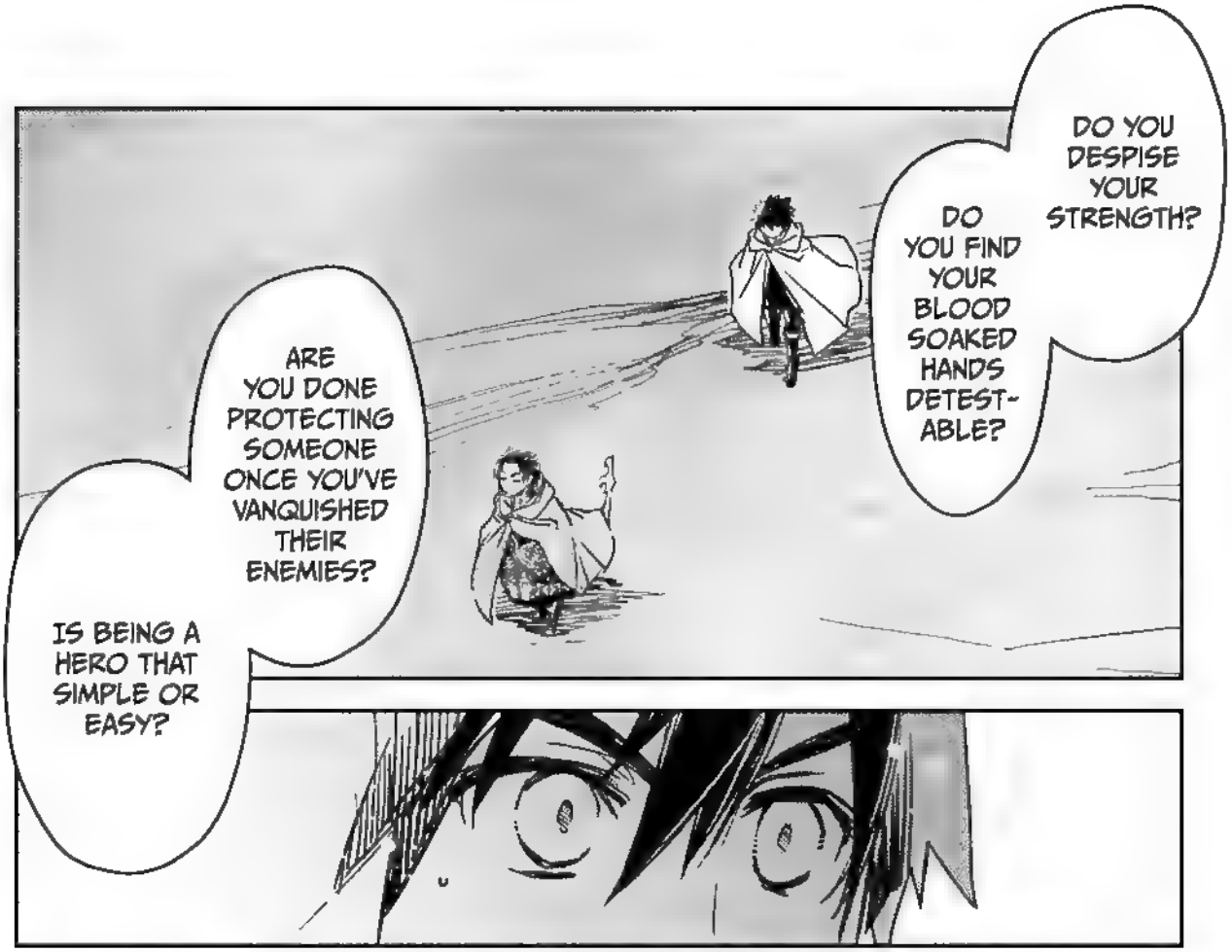
YOU ARE WILLING TO PROTECT ME...
...BUT YOU WILL NOT STAY WITH ME FOR-EVER.
NO MATTER WHAT MY FATHER SAYS, I REFUSE TO BE ANYTHING BUT FIRST.
YOU DO NOT NEED TO FEEL SORRY FOR REJECTING ME.
I HAVE BETRAYED YOU AS WELL.
I DO NOT DESERVE YOUR PITY.
HOWEVER, I DO HAVE ONE REQUEST.

IF THERE IS SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO YOU, TELL HER SHE IS IMPORTANT.
TURN


WITH YOUR STRENGTH ...
...YOU CAN PROTECT THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF GIRLS.
HOW-EVER...
...THAT IS NOT A SIGN OF YOUR DEVOTION.

THE DEMON QUEEN'S SPEECH WAS MUDDLED.
SHE MUST FEEL UNCERTAIN.
AM I BEING UNFAIR?
NO.
YOU'RE NOT. AT LEAST...
...I DON'T THINK SO.
WHY DO YOU HESITATE?

KILLING HUMANS AND DEMONS.
BURNING FIELDS.
SHATTERING LANDS AND REDUCING CITIES TO DUST.
THAT'S ALL I CAN DO.
BE-CAUSE ...
...I'M WORTH-LESS.
I GUESS IT MAKES ME...
...FEEL WORTH-LESS.
I'M NOT SURE WHY...
...BUT I DON'T FEEL AS THOUGH I DESERVE HAPPINESS.
COW-ARD.


DO YOU DESPISE YOUR STRENGTH?
DO YOU FIND YOUR BLOOD SOAKED HANDS DETEST-ABLE?
ARE YOU DONE PROTECTING SOMEONE ONCE YOU'VE VANQUISHED THEIR ENEMIES?
IS BEING A HERO THAT SIMPLE OR EASY?

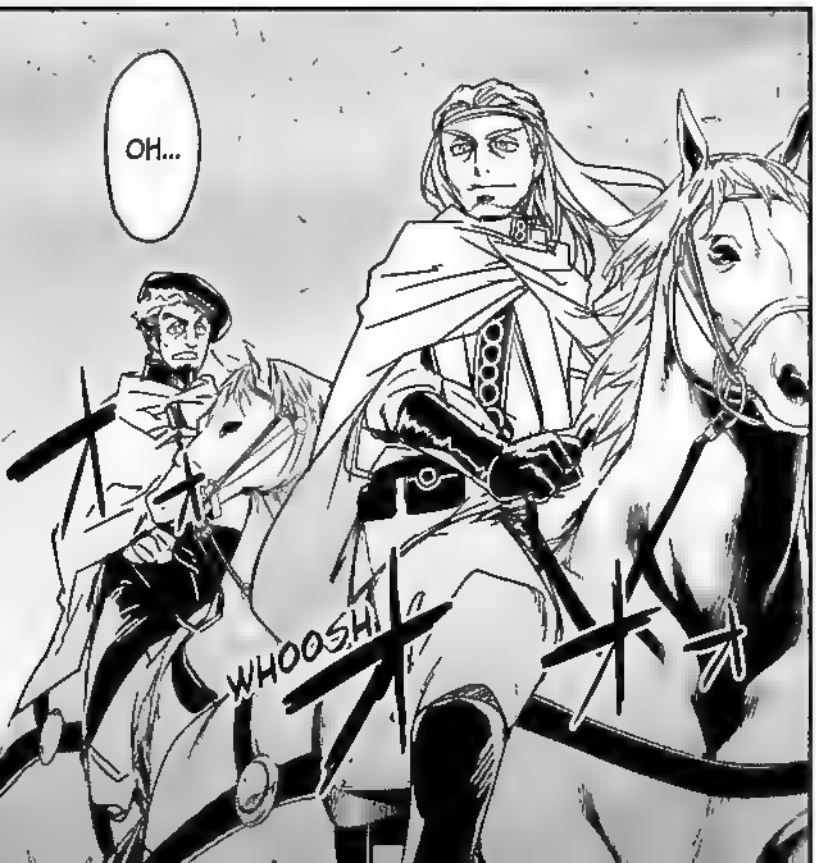
AS ONE WHO WALKS A DIFFERENT PATH FROM YOURS, I GIVE YOU ONE LAST...
... PARTING GIFT.

I WILL FIND HAPPI-NESS.
I WILL BECOME BEAUTIFUL.
EVERY TIME YOU, THE FIRST MAN I CALLED MY DARLING, LOOK BACK...
...YOU WILL BE FILLED WITH REGRET AND ENVY.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
THIS IS A DEBT YOU OWE ME.
YOU OWE ME A GREAT DEBT.
YOU CAN ONLY REPAY IT BY BECOMING HAPPY YOURSELF.

DON'T FORGET THAT.

CLOP
CLIP


OH...
WHOOSH!

!
WHOOSH
THE STRATEGIST

THAT'S RIGHT -- THE SHORT TRAINING PERIOD.

THEY'VE COME SO FAR IN ONLY A FEW MONTHS.

THAT IS ITS ONLY STRENGTH, BUT IT WILL CHANGE EVERY-THING.

...EXCEED-INGLY CHEAP TO PRODUCE.

THE MUSKET MAKES SOLDIERS, AN INDIS-PENSABLE RESOURCE OF WAR...

ROAR

ROAR

OUR INEX-HAUSTIBLE SUPPLY OF SERFS CAN BE SENT TO THE BATTLE-FIELD.

MUSKETS AND SUFFI-CIENT TRAIN-ING WILL CHANGE WARS COM-PLETELY.

PRE-PARE TO FIRE!

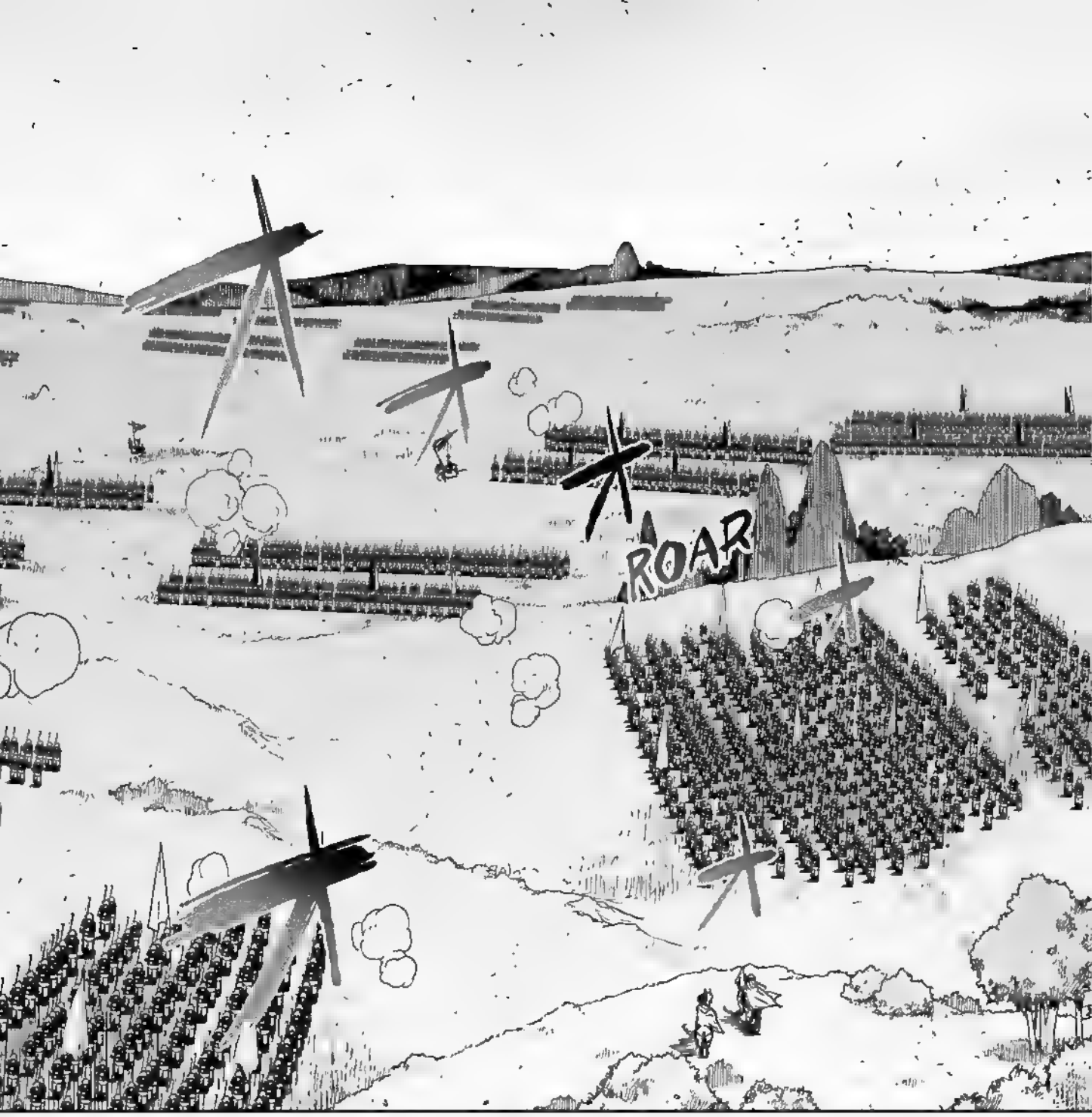
WHAP

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

MARCH

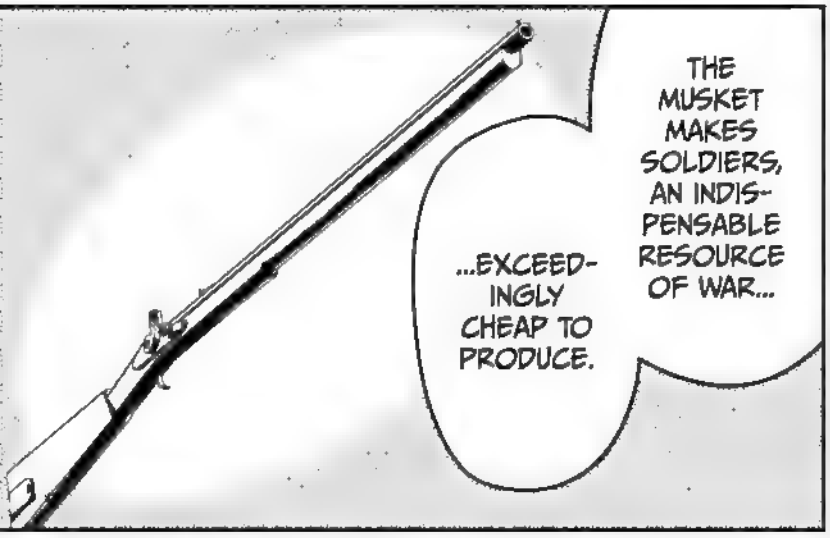
MARCH

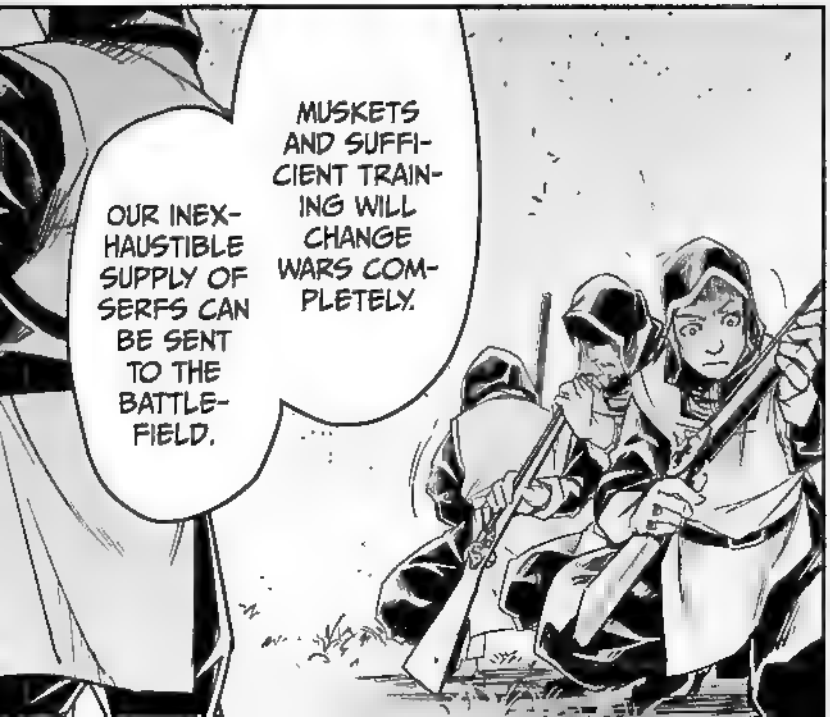

ROAR

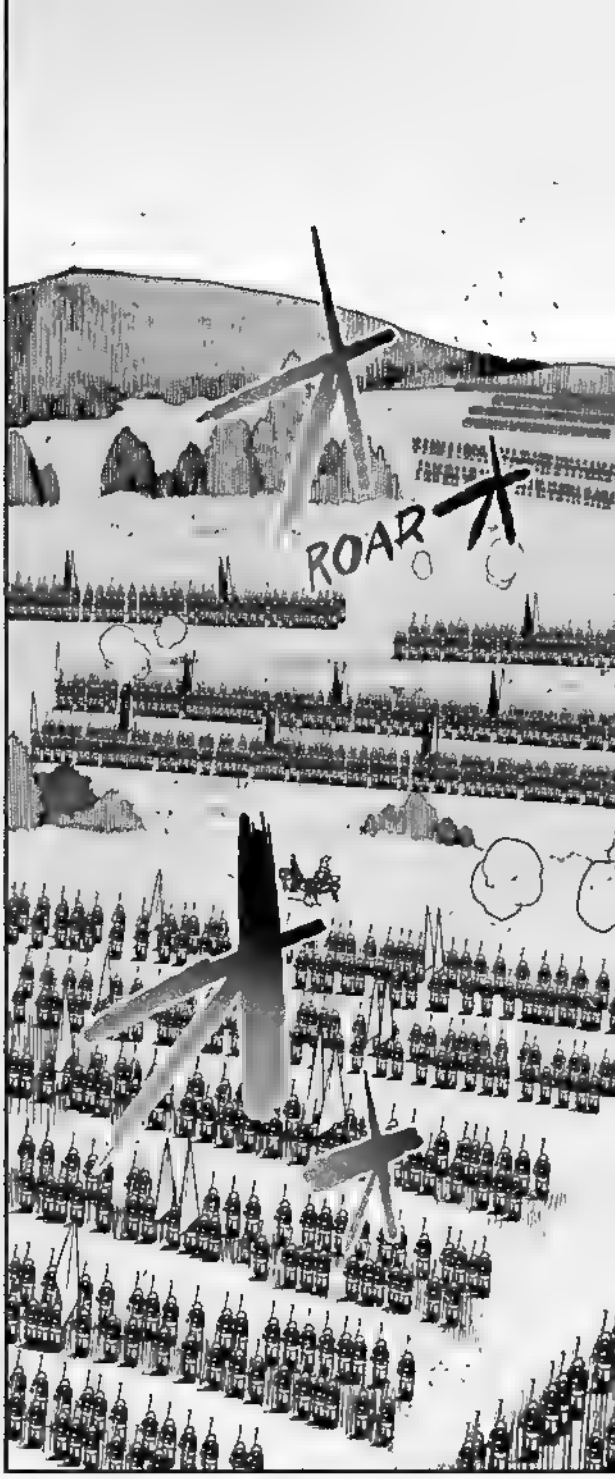
RUSTLE

MARCH
MARCH

THAT'S RIGHT -- THE SHORT TRAINING PERIOD.
THEY'VE COME SO FAR IN ONLY A FEW MONTHS.
THAT IS ITS ONLY STRENGTH, BUT IT WILL CHANGE EVERY-THING.

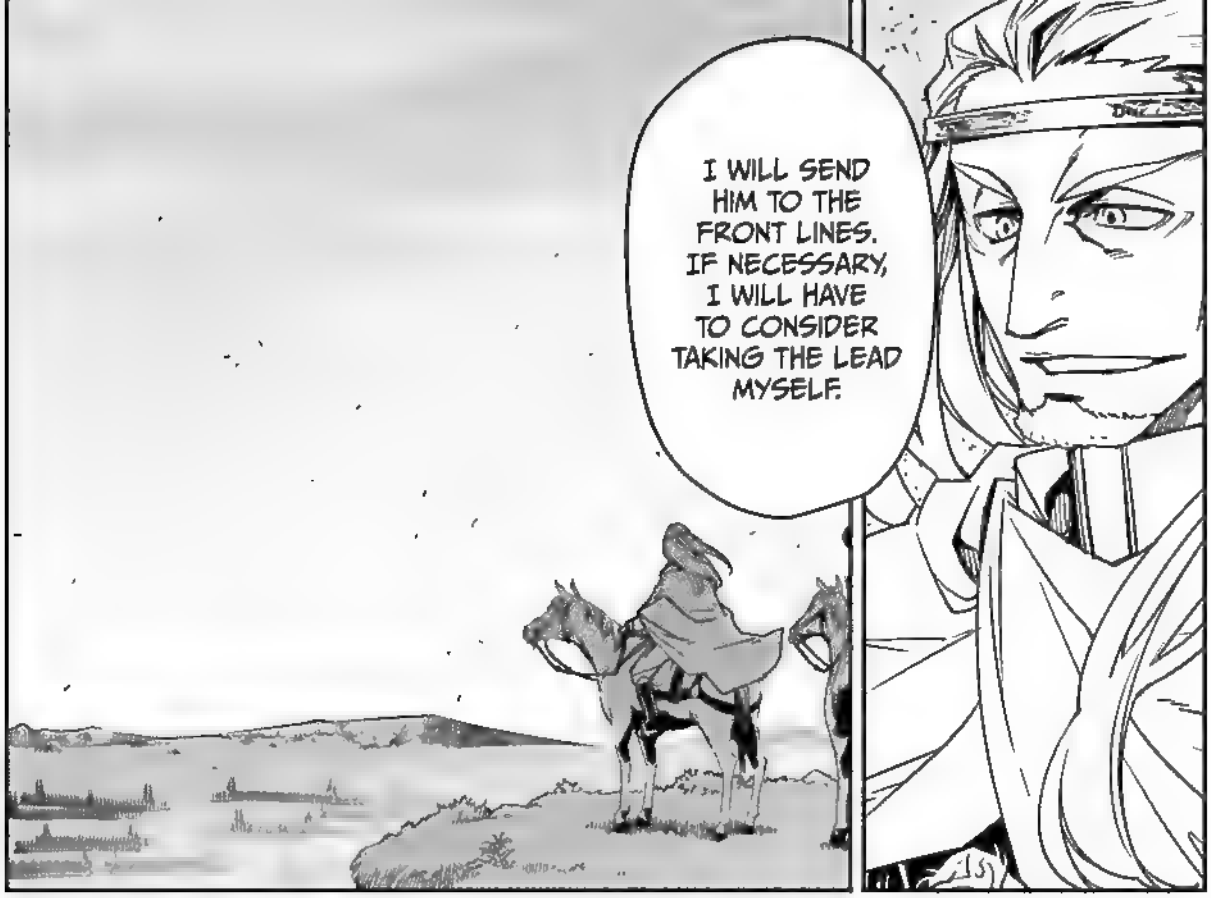

THE MUSKET MAKES SOLDIERS, AN INDIS-PENSABLE RESOURCE OF WAR...
...EXCEED-INGLY CHEAP TO PRODUCE.


MUSKETS AND SUFFI-CIENT TRAIN-ING WILL CHANGE WARS COM-PLETELY.
OUR INEX-HAUSTIBLE SUPPLY OF SERFS CAN BE SENT TO THE BATTLE-FIELD.


ROAR

PRE-PARE TO FIRE!
WHAP
RUSTLE

ONCE A MUSKET IS FIRED, THE AMOUNT OF TIME...
...IT TAKES TO RELOAD IS ALSO A PROBLEM.
THEY'RE PRACTICALLY DEFENSELESS DURING THAT TIME
LARGE NUMBERS OF SOLDIERS ARE BOTH A STRENGTH AND A WEAKNESS.
THEY CONSUME THAT MUCH MORE FOOD AND AMMUNI-TION.
THERE ARE MANY DOWN SIDES TOO.
THE BLUE ASH KING OF THE MIST KINGDOM IS BURNING WITH DESIRE TO VINDICATE HIS HONOR AFTER THE BATTLE TO SUBJUGATE THE SOUTH.
WITH THE RIGHT ADVICE, HE'S SURE TO ACHIEVE RESULTS.
WITH A COMMANDING OFFICER ON THE FRONT LINES SOLVING THIS PROBLEM...
...MUSKET CORPS ARE SURE TO BECOME THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE ON THE CONTINENT.


I WILL SEND HIM TO THE FRONT LINES. IF NECESSARY, I WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER TAKING THE LEAD MYSELF.

I KNOW.
I'M JUST SKIM-MING IT.
DEMON QUEEN.
YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD.

THE MINUTES OF THE CLAN CONFERENCE AND NINE CLAN ROADS PLAN?
YOU MEAN...
THEY'RE HERE.
UMM...
WHERE IS THAT?
WHERE DID THAT GO?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
?
THERE'S
HEE HEE.
THAT'S IT!
UMM...
THE SPIRIT WORLD'S MANAGING JUST FINE WITHOUT ME.

SLAM
NO.
I'LL GO MAKE SOME TEA.
STEP
STEP
IS SOME-THING WRONG ?

WHEW

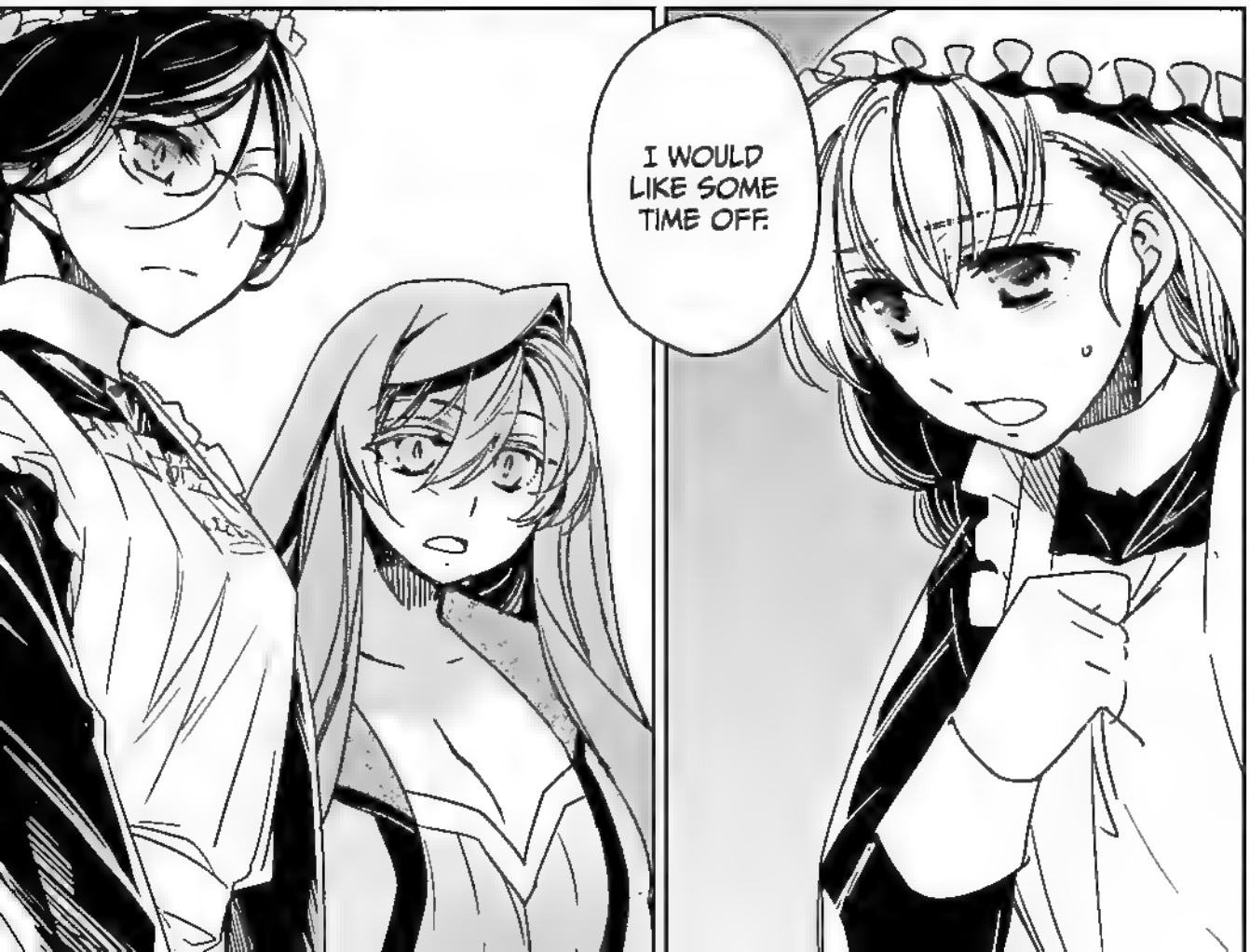
FLIP
SHUT
SCRITCH
SCRITCH

OH.
STEP.
CLICK...

I'M SORRY.
CLATTER
YOU'LL GET SICK.
YOU'RE WORKING TOO HARD.

CLENCH
MIS-TRESS.
NO.
I'M NOT ANXIOUS.
WHAT'S MAKING YOU SO ANXIOUS?
CREAK

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU.
WHAT IS IT?


I WOULD LIKE SOME TIME OFF.

...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I DON'T KNOW...
...BUT I'D LIKE TO GO SOME-WHERE ELSE.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR SISTER?
I'VE SPOKEN WITH HER.
SHE HAS DREAMS TO FULFILL HERE.
I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO SELFISH.
MISTRESS, YOU AND THE CHIEF MAID SAVED US.
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.

THIS ISN'T THE LAST TIME WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER, IS IT?
I'M SURE...
I'M SURE I WILL RETURN.
YOU'RE NOT LEAVING BECAUSE YOU DISLIKE THIS PLACE, ARE YOU?
NO.
NO!
NEVER!

OF ALL THE PLACES I HAVE LIVED...
...THIS IS THE WARMEST AND KINDEST.
I VALUE...
...THIS PLACE ABOVE ALL OTHERS.
I DIDN'T ACTUALLY WANT TO LEAVE.
BUT IF I DON'T...
...I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FORGIVE MYSELF.
I HAVE BUR-DENED...
...MANY PEOPLE WILL RESPON-SIBILITY.

I...
I BELIEVE ...
...IT WOULD BE INSINCERE OF ME TO STOP MOVING FORWARD.

SINCE I SHOUTED IN THE SQUARE THAT DAY...
...AS SOMEONE WHO HAS SPOKEN OUT...
...I HAVE FELT THERE IS SOME-THING I MUST DO.

I HAVE ORGANIZED TWO YEARS WORTH OF RECORDS.
I HAVE CATALOGED THEIR CONTENTS IN THIS BOOK-SHELF.
BUT THERE IS NO BURDEN YOU MUST BEAR.
EVEN SO...
...I WOULD LIKE TO CHOOSE TO DO SO.
I'VE ORGANIZED MY NOTES HERE...
...TO HELP WHOEVER CONTINUES MY WORK.
FIND WHAT?
I'M SURE I'LL RETURN HOME ONCE I FIND SOMETHING.

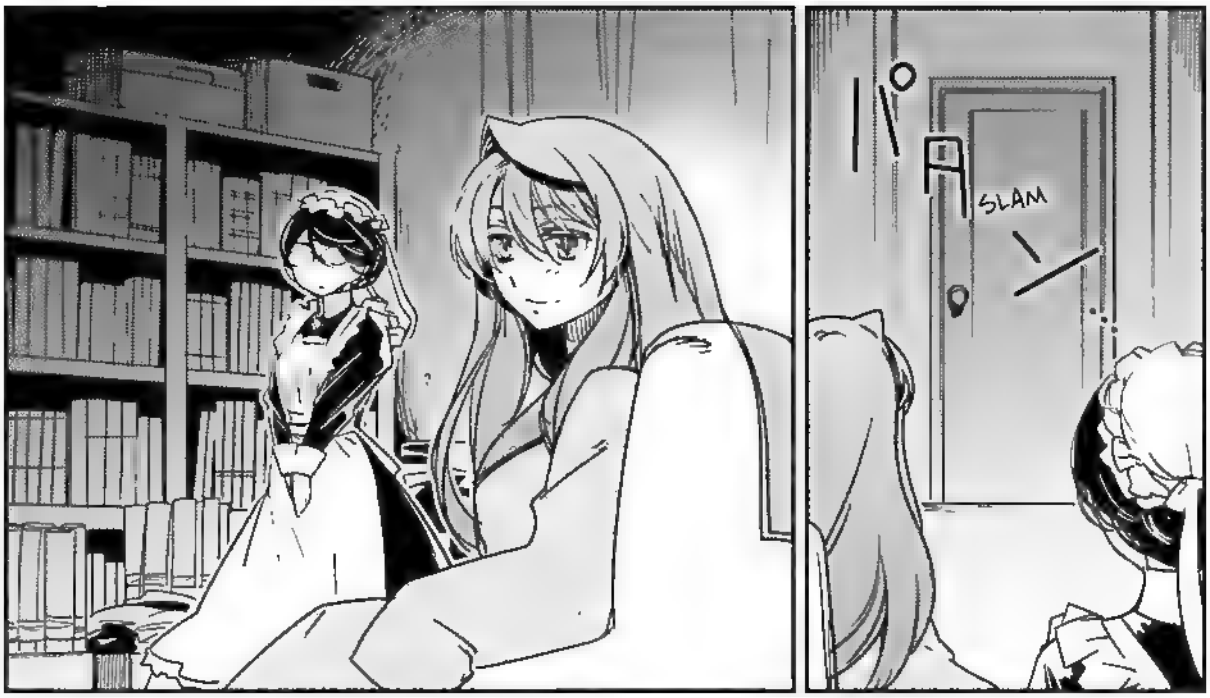
PROB-
ABLY...
...THE
MEAN-
ING OF
FIGHT-
ING.
I
BELIEVE
...
...I MUST
BE THE
ONE TO
FIND IT.
PERHAPS I
WASN'T ABLE
TO BECOME
A MAID...
...BUT I
BELIEVE WHAT
I LEARNED
FROM THE
CHIEF MAID
MAKES ME
MORE THAN
A MAID.
MIS-
TRESS.
HERO.
FEMALE
KNIGHT.
THE
SONS.
THE THINGS
I LEARNED
FROM THEM
ARE MORE
VALUABLE
THAN GOLD.

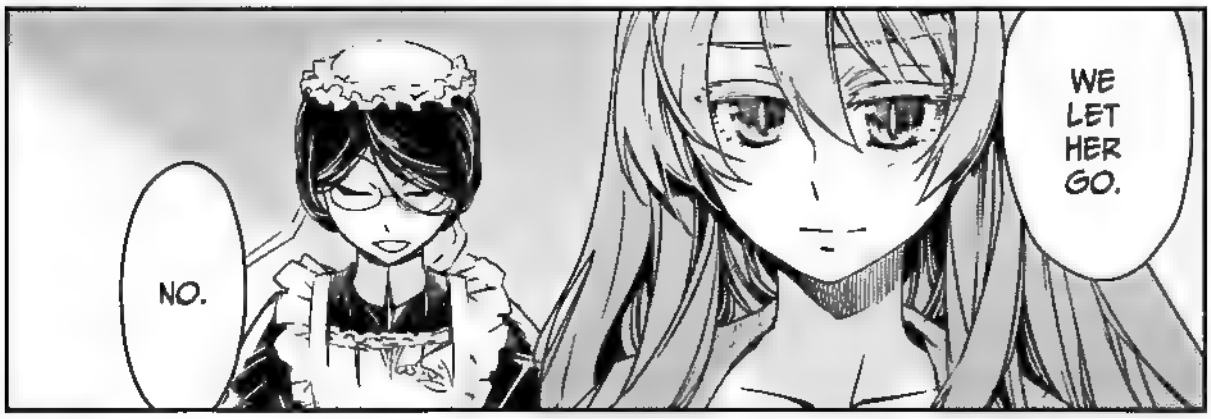
TOUCH
CLATTER

THEN GO.
YOU'RE GOING TO FIND YOUR DESTINY, AREN'T YOU?
YOUR WINGS HAVE THE STRENGTH.

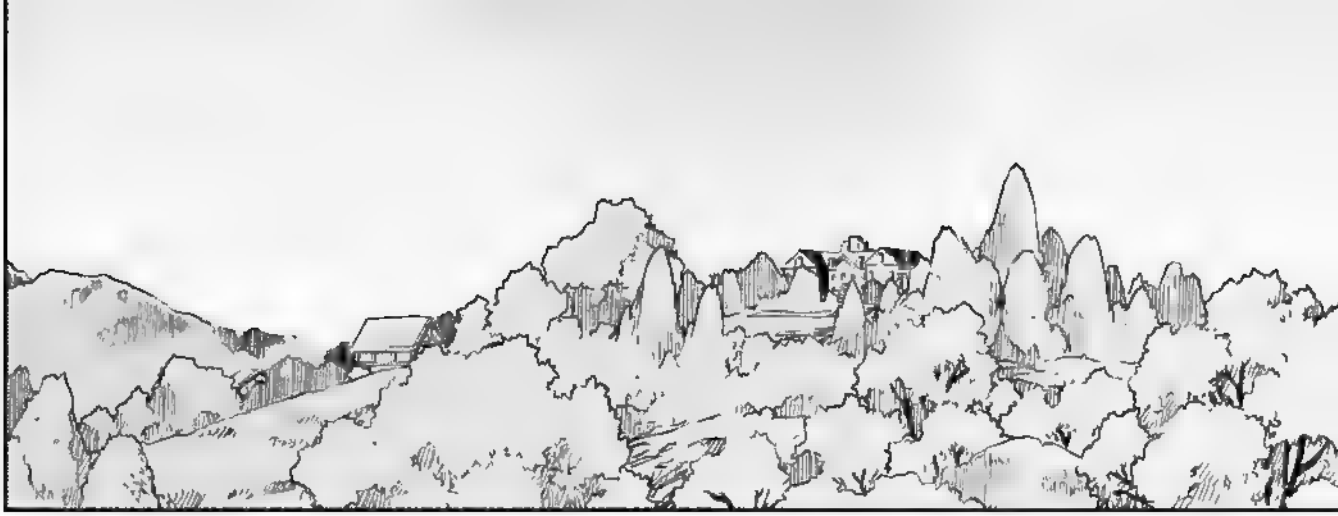
YES.
I WILL NOT FORGET YOUR KINDNESS OR GOOD-WILL.
YOU'LL TAKE OUR TEACHINGS WITH YOU, WON'T YOU?
WHEN ARE YOU LEAVING?
AT DAWN.
カチャ
CLICK
YOU SHOULD SLEEP FIRST.
YES.
EX-CUSE ME.

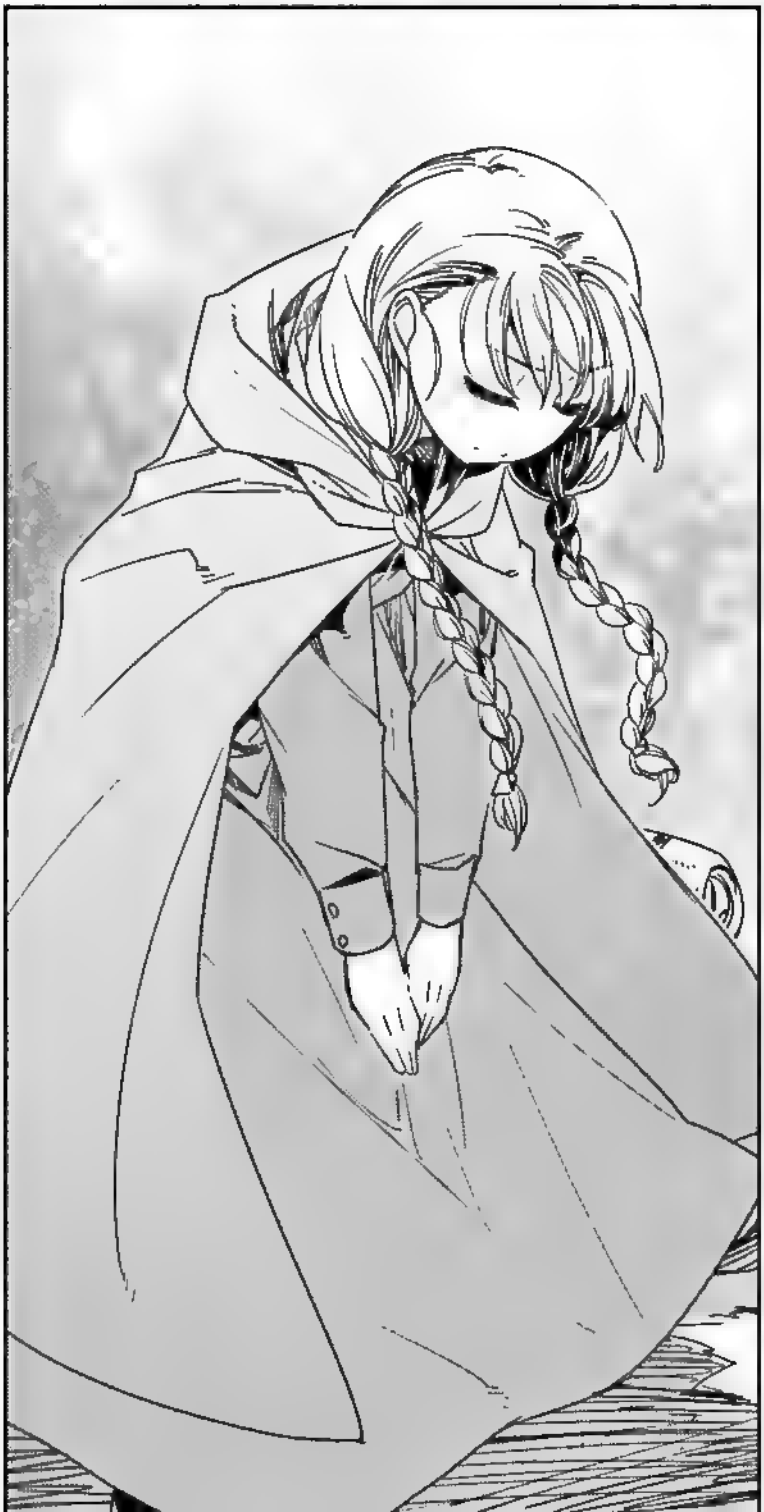
I LOVE BOTH OF YOU.
UMM...

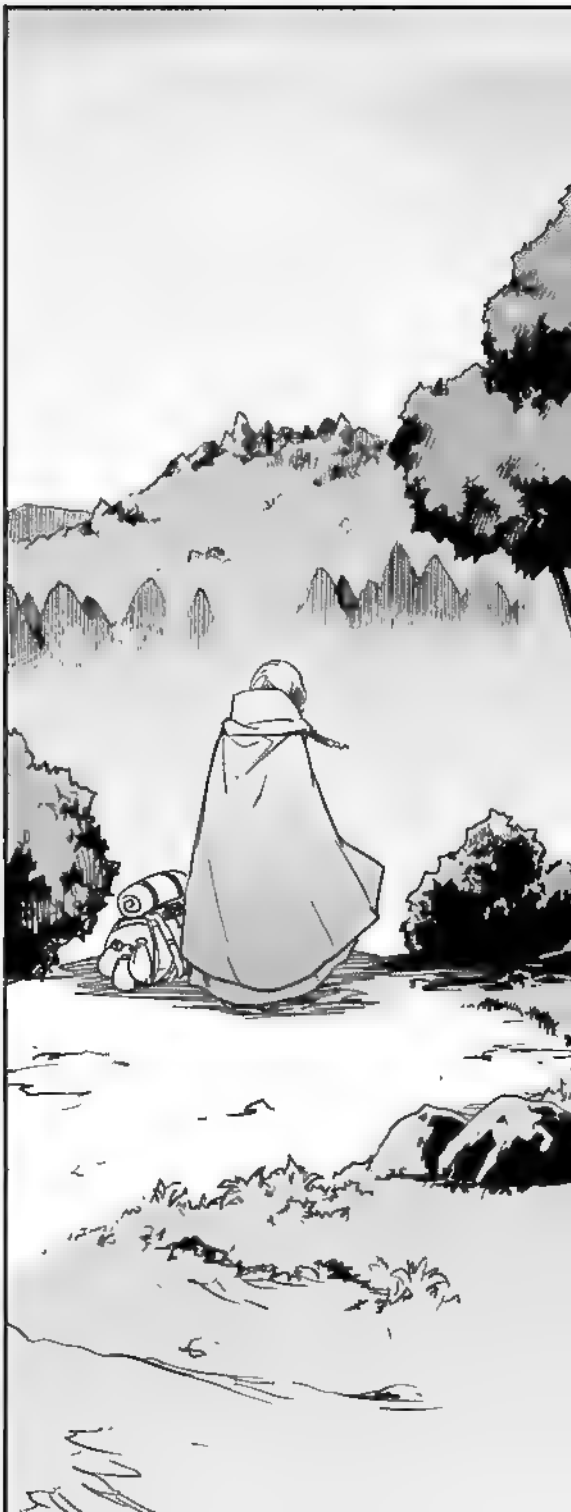

SLAM


WE LET HER GO.
NO.

NO MATTER WHERE SHE GOES OR WHAT SHE DOES...
...I WILL ALWAYS BE PROUD OF HER.



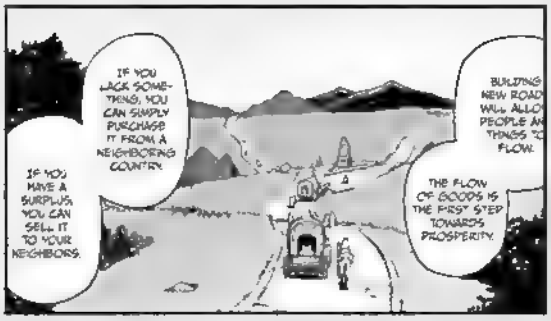




THE END
CHAPTER 33
Roads

THE EFFECT OF TRADE ROUTES AND COMMERCE ON SOCIETY

Trade has been conducted throughout the world since ancient times. Its effects extend beyond business, and it has the power to change society.


IF YOU LACK SOMETHING, YOU CAN SIMPLY PURCHASE IT FROM A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY.
IF YOU HAVE A SURPLUS, YOU CAN SELL IT TO YOUR NEIGHBORS.
THE FLOW OF GOODS IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS PROSPERITY.

Roads for transporting people and goods are essential for trade to flourish.

THE SILK ROAD: A LONG TRADE ROUTE

The Silk Road is the first trade route that comes to mind. The Ptolemaic Dynasty that began in 306 BCE was already trading via sea routes with India. The Roman Empire conquered the Ptolemaic Dynasty not only continued trading with India but also arrived in China to procure silk.

Meanwhile, Islamic merchants were traveling to China by land trade routes, and around the 7th Century they established settlements in China. They traveled from modern day Xi'an to Dunhuang, through the Tarim Basin of the Uighur Autonomous Region, to Samarkand in Uzbekistan. They would then pass through Iran south of the Caspian Sea to Beirut in Lebanon.

While technology was underdeveloped, land and trade routes crossing through multiple territories and plagued by brigands and pirates could hardly be called safe, but trade was conducted nonetheless by the bold spirits of the merchants.

DEVELOPMENTS IN MIDDLE AGE BUSINESS CAUSED BY TRADE

When Europe entered the Middle Ages, China, India, and the Middle East were advanced nations, and Europe was still little more than the countryside. The Holy Crusades that began in 1096 sparked the development of commerce in Europe. The people who headed into the Middle East to recover the holy land of Jerusalem encountered Islamic culture for the first time. The accounts of the Islamic world brought back to Europe by the crusaders surprised and inspired people, and primarily Italian merchants began trading with the Islamic world.

Throughout Europe merchant towns grew in power on the back of the wealth gained through trade, and trade prospered across the continent. The revitalization of the economy spread currency to rural areas and strengthened the influence of the monarchs protecting them, profoundly affecting European society.

ADDITIONALLY...
...WATERWAYS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED ALONGSIDE IMPORTANT SECTIONS OF THE NINE CLAN ROADS FOR IRRIGATION.
TREES WILL BE PLANTED AT REGULAR INTERVALS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD.
THEIR ROOTS WILL GRASP THE EARTH AND PREVENT LANDSLIDES.

Constructing waterways alongside roads will allow for water transport as well.

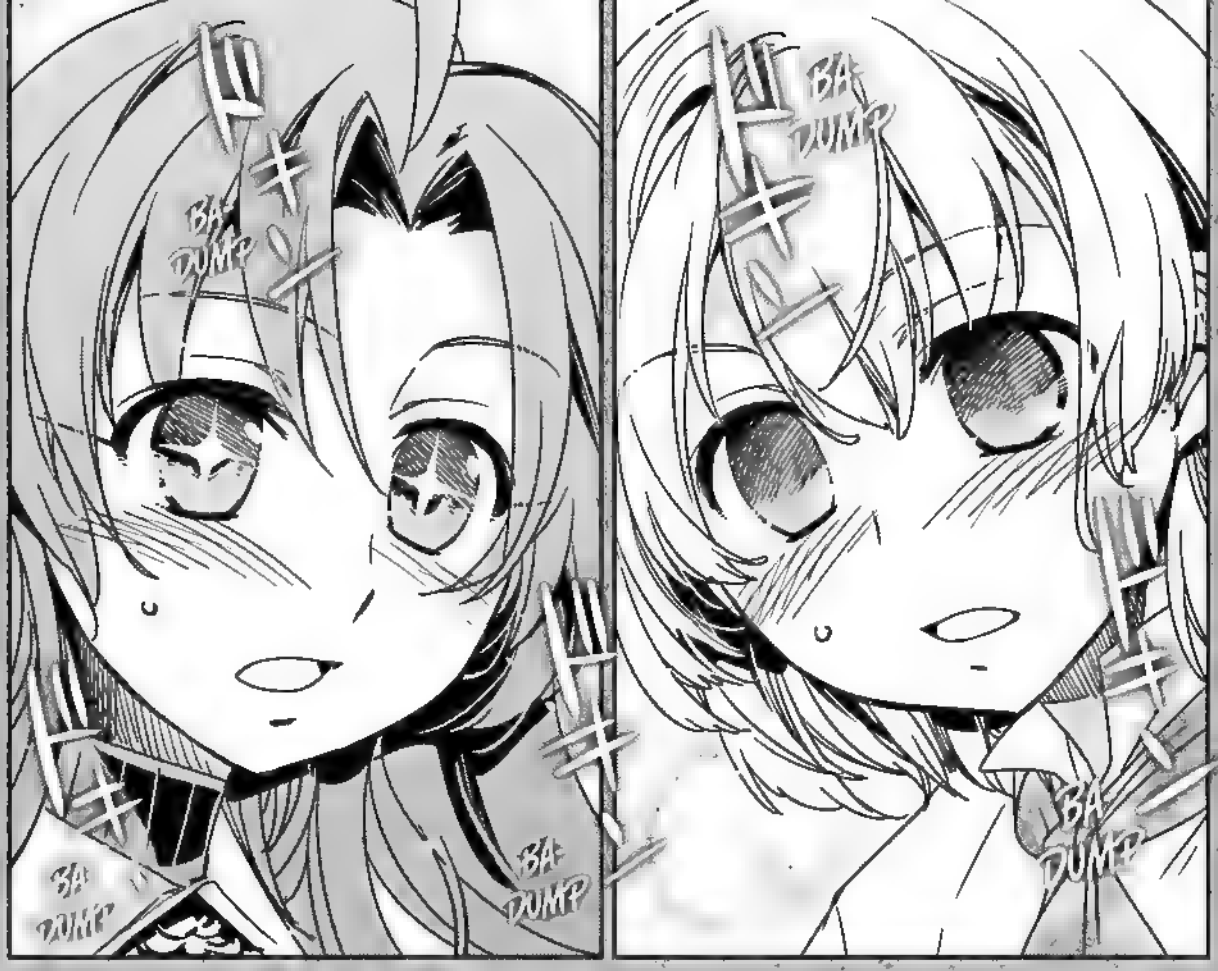
The effects of trade are not limited to business. In this work, Princess Fire Dragon suggests constructing major roads in the subterranean world to improve the flow of goods. Executing this project would revitalize the subterranean world's economy and be a big step forward.

BUT I THOUGHT...

EVERY-ONE'S SO NICE.
EVERY-ONE'S SO WARM.
I WONDER WHY.
I THOUGHT THE SURFACE WORLD WAS A MORE TERRIFYING PLACE.

SPEW
YOUR ECCENTRIC BEHAVIOR STOPS HERE.
"THE MERRY MURDER"!
OH, NO!
THE PERVERT IS BULLYING ME!
I'VE DISCOVERED A CASE. A SUSPICIOUS MAN DRESSED IN TIGHTS...
...IS SPRAYING A STRANGE LIQUID ON A YOUNG GIRL!
DON'T CALL IT A CASE!
I SPRAYED FORMIC ACID ON HER BECAUSE I'M AN ANT MAN! I HAD NO SHAMEFUL INTENTIONS ...
CLATTER
MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
CHAPTER 34

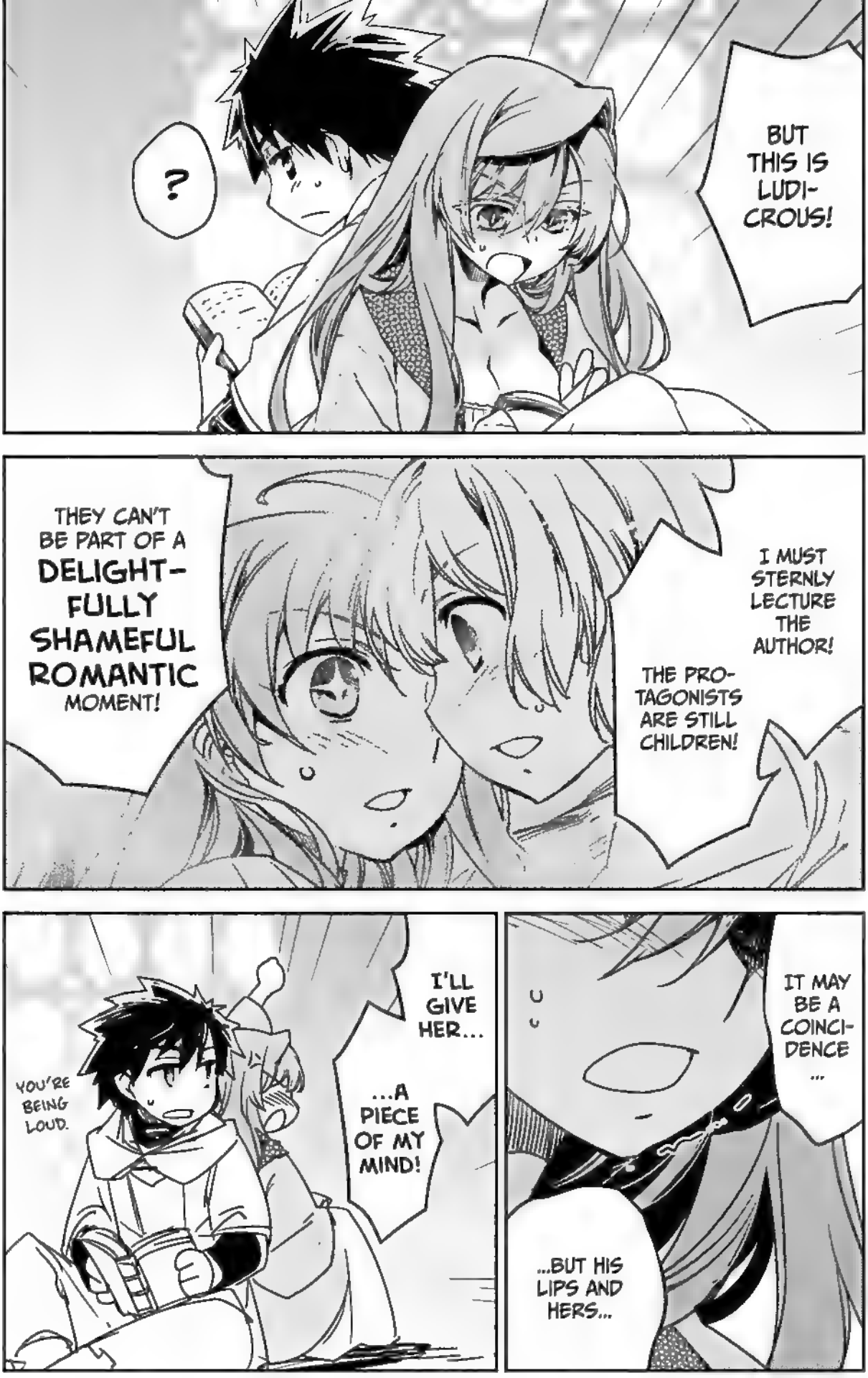
NANAKO!
CLATTER
AH!
RUMBLE
CLATTER
HUH? DID I OVERDO IT?
RUSTLE
CLATTER
CLATTER



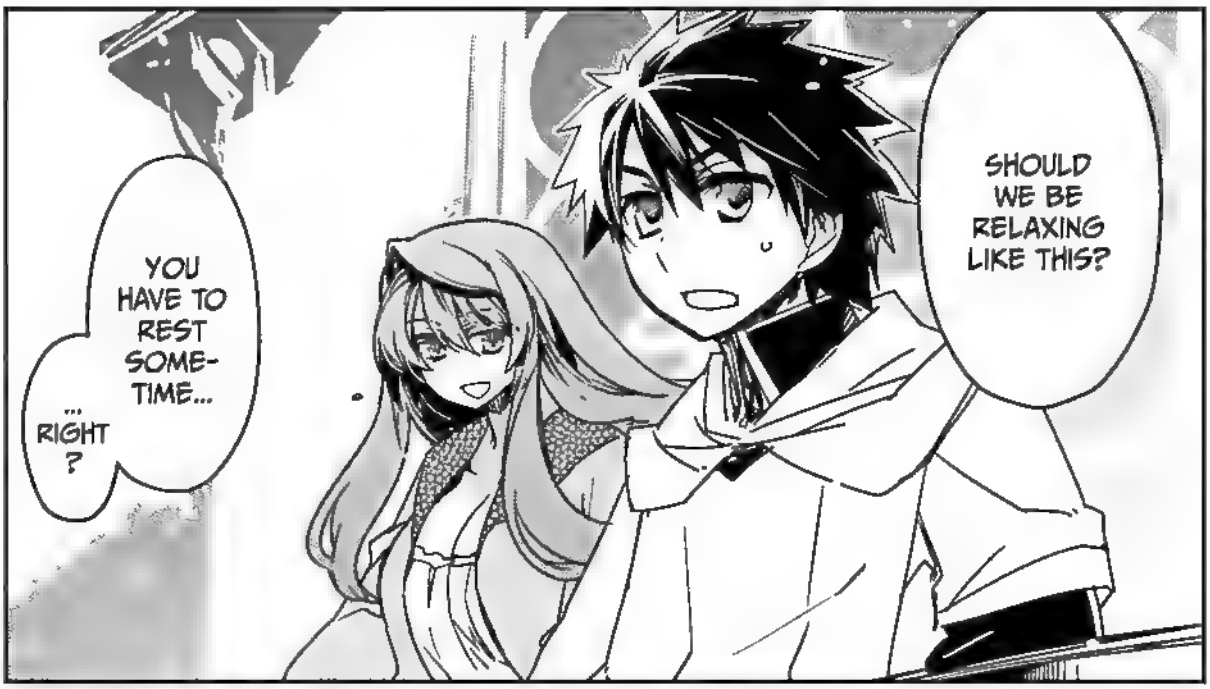
Chapter 34 Archenemy and Hero

Humans are Involved in the World From the Moment They are Born

I WASN'T EXPECTING THIS KIND OF PRIZE...
...IN THE SIXTH VOLUME OF THE SERIES.
THE MERRY MURDER
6
SUDDEN FAN SERVICE AND A HEART POUNDING MOMENT?


BUT THIS IS LUDI-CROUS!
?
I MUST STERNLY LECTURE THE AUTHOR!
THE PRO-TAGONISTS ARE STILL CHILDREN!
THEY CAN'T BE PART OF A DELIGHT-FULLY SHAMEFUL ROMANTIC MOMENT!
I'LL GIVE HER...
...A PIECE OF MY MIND!
YOU'RE BEING LOUD.
IT MAY BE A COINCI-DENCE ...
...BUT HIS LIPS AND HERS...

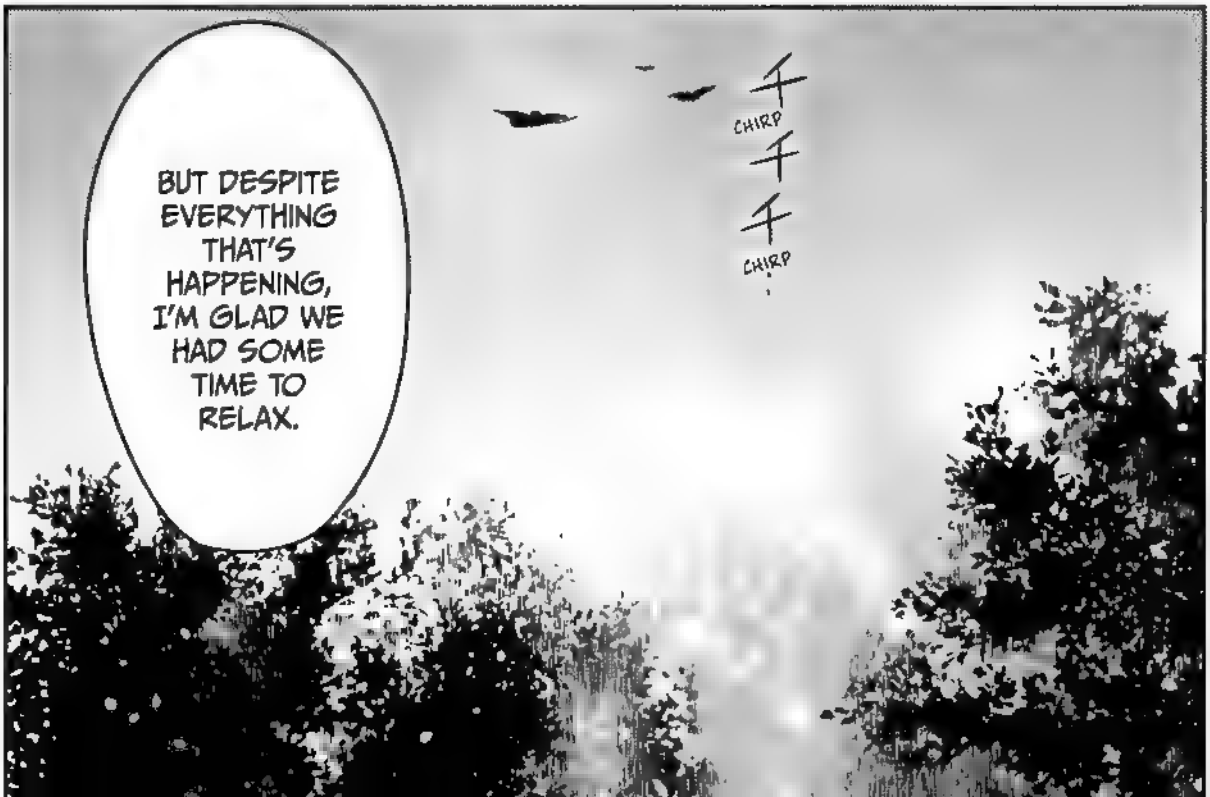
I AM CALM.
ARE YOU SURE?
CALM DOWN.
...BE ALLOWED TO FIND SUCH GOOD FORTUNE THROUGH ACCIDENTAL COINCIDENCES?
WHY SHOULD THESE CHILDREN ...
...WHO HAVE REACHED THE AGE OF MATURITY.
THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER PEOPLE IN THE WORLD...
MUMBLE
BY THE WAY...
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU...
...BEFORE ACCEPTING THE FEMALE KNIGHT'S OATH.
IT'S FINE.
THE FEMALE KNIGHT APOLOGIZED TO ME TOO.


SHOULD WE BE RELAXING LIKE THIS?
YOU HAVE TO REST SOME-TIME...
...RIGHT?

WE'LL BE BUSY BEFORE LONG.

I SEE.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THE SURFACE AND SUB-TERRANEAN WORLDS HAVEN'T RESOLVED THEIR PROBLEMS.
THEY'VE ONLY POSTPONED THEM.
ON THE SURFACE, THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN THE CENTRAL CONTINENT'S FORCES...
...THAT RETREATED DUE TO THE SNOW WILL RETURN.
IN THE SUB-TERRANEAN WORLD, A WAR AGAINST THE BLUE DEMONS IS PROBABLY UNAVOIDABLE.
THE EMBERS ARE STILL SMOLDERING.

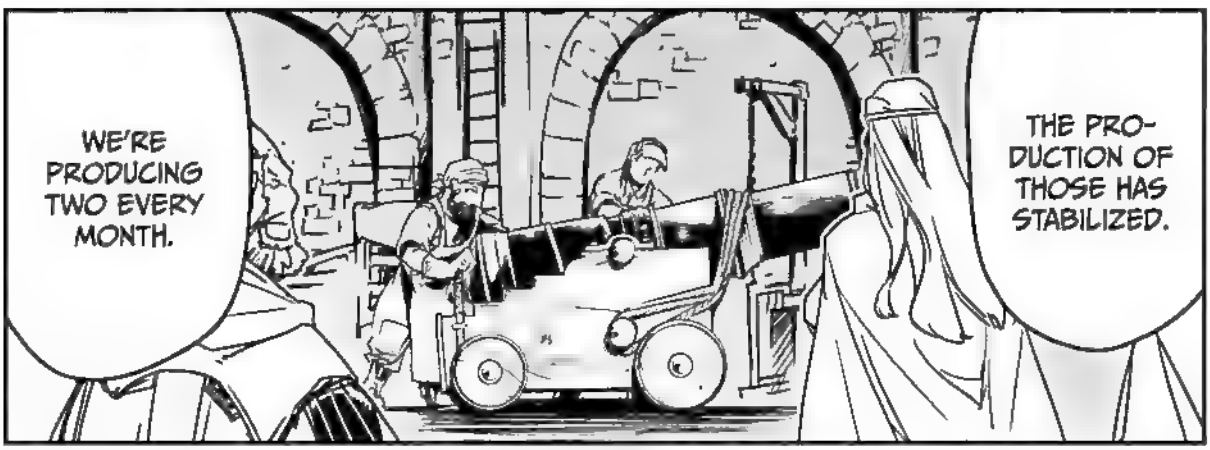
MOST OF ALL, THE SEAL KING OF THE BLUE DEMONS...
YEAH.
I'LL HAVE TO HANDLE HIM MYSELF.

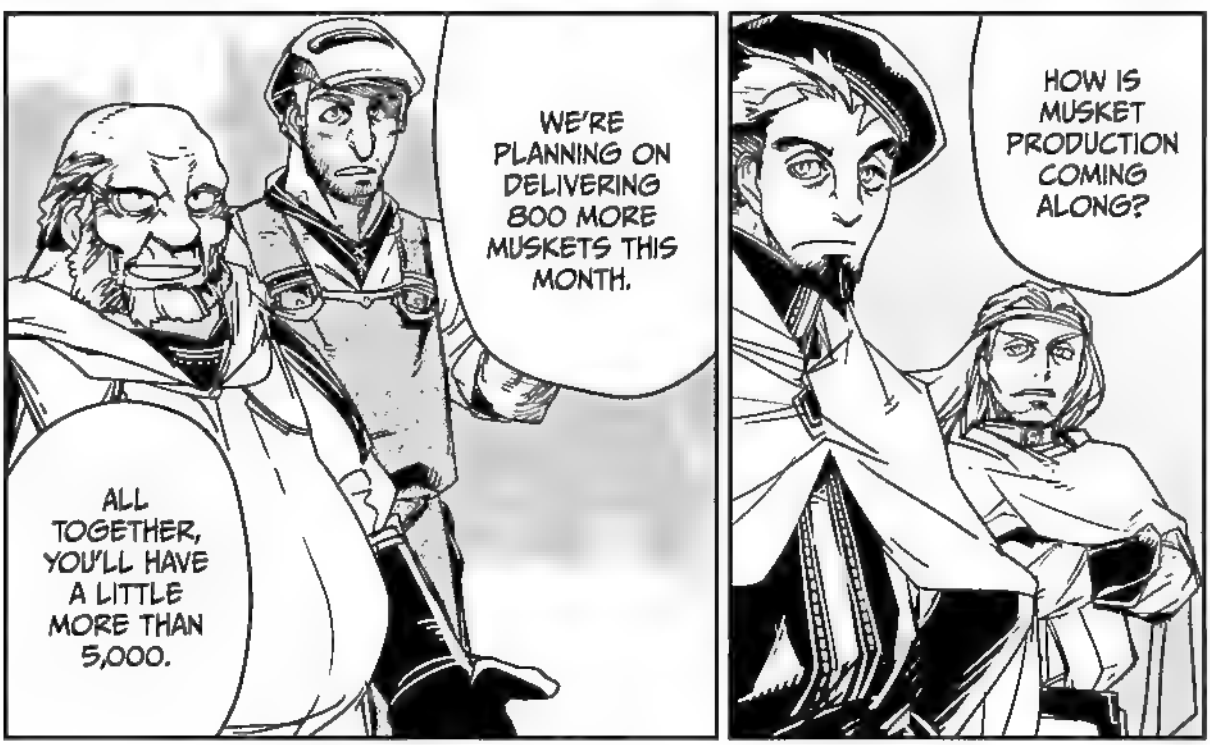

BUT DESPITE EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENING, I'M GLAD WE HAD SOME TIME TO RELAX.
CHIRP
CHIRP

IT WOULD BE NICE IF NOTHING HAPPENED NOW.

SCRAPE
SCRAPE
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
ROAR

THE HOLY KINGDOM SECRET IRONWORKS
ROAR
CLANG
CLANG


WE'RE PRODUCING TWO EVERY MONTH.
THE PRODUCTION OF THOSE HAS STABILIZED.

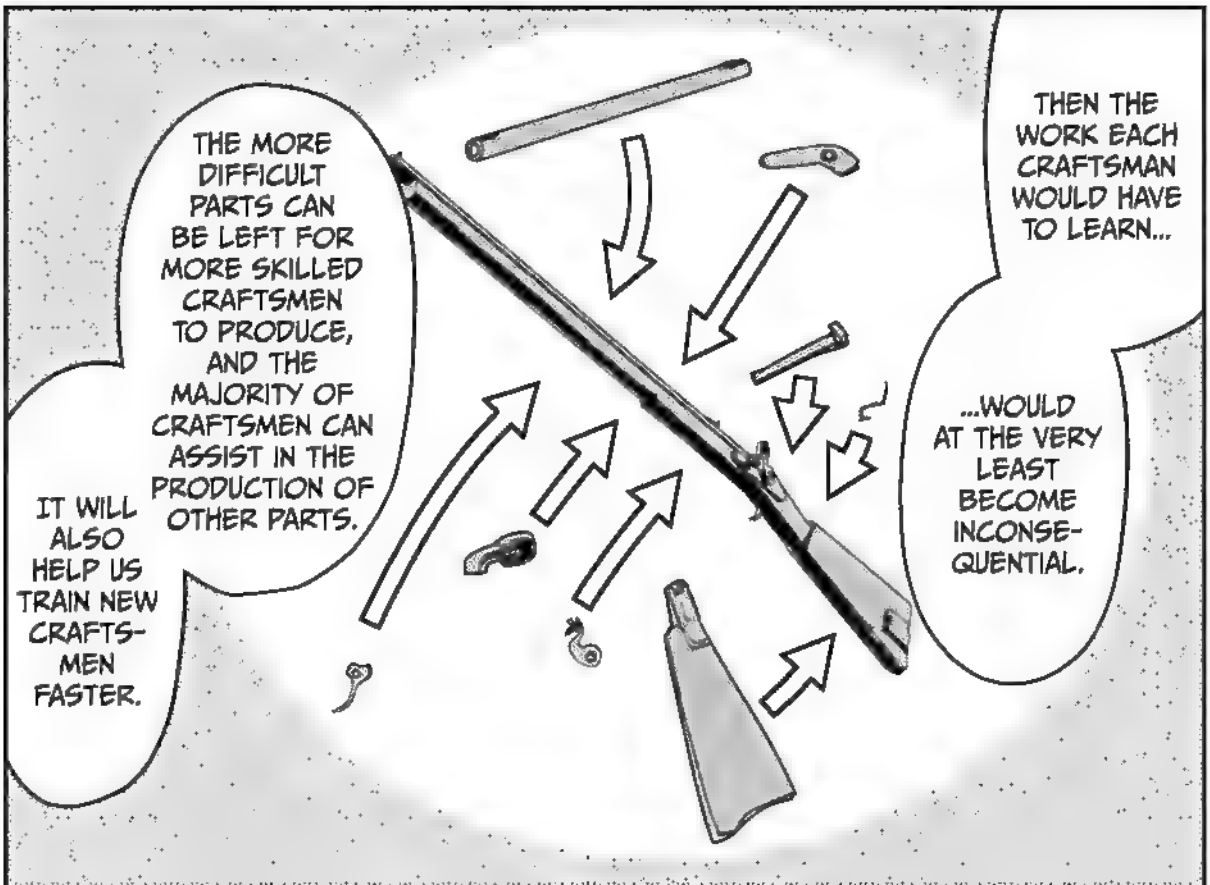

WE'RE PLANNING ON DELIVERING 800 MORE MUSKETS THIS MONTH.
ALL TOGETHER, YOU'LL HAVE A LITTLE MORE THAN 5,000.
HOW IS MUSKET PRODUCTION COMING ALONG?

PRODUCING MUSKETS REQUIRES DETAILED WORK. ONLY SKILLED CRAFTSMEN CAN MAKE THEM.
WE'RE HAVING ISSUES WITH PRECISION.
IT'S SLOW. CAN'T YOU MAKE THEM FASTER?
I'LL ARRANGE FOR MORE, BUT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN SECRECY AND INCREASE THE SCALE OF THE OPERATION.
THE NUM-BER OF CRAFTS-MEN, HUH?
THE IRON-WORKER'S GUILD IS WORKING AS HARD AS IT CAN, BUT THERE IS A LIMITED NUMBER OF SKILLED CRAFTSMEN.
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, YOUR EXCEL-LENCY...
YES ...
YES, SIR.
THINK OF AN EFFICIENT WAY TO IMPROVE PRODUCTION.
THAT'S YOUR JOB.

INSTEAD OF HAVING EACH CRAFTSMAN PRODUCE ONE WEAPON AT A TIME...
...WE COULD TRAIN MEN TO PRODUCE ONLY ONE PART...
...AND DIVIDE THE WORK AMONG MULTIPLE MEN.

THESE WEAPONS ARE CONSTRUCTED FROM A VARIETY OF PARTS.
HOWEVER, NOT EVERY PART REQUIRES A HIGH LEVEL OF SKILL TO PRODUCE.

!!


THE MORE DIFFICULT PARTS CAN BE LEFT FOR MORE SKILLED CRAFTSMEN TO PRODUCE, AND THE MAJORITY OF CRAFTSMEN CAN ASSIST IN THE PRODUCTION OF OTHER PARTS.
IT WILL ALSO HELP US TRAIN NEW CRAFTS-MEN FASTER.
THEN THE WORK EACH CRAFTSMAN WOULD HAVE TO LEARN...
...WOULD AT THE VERY LEAST BECOME INCONSE-QUENTIAL.

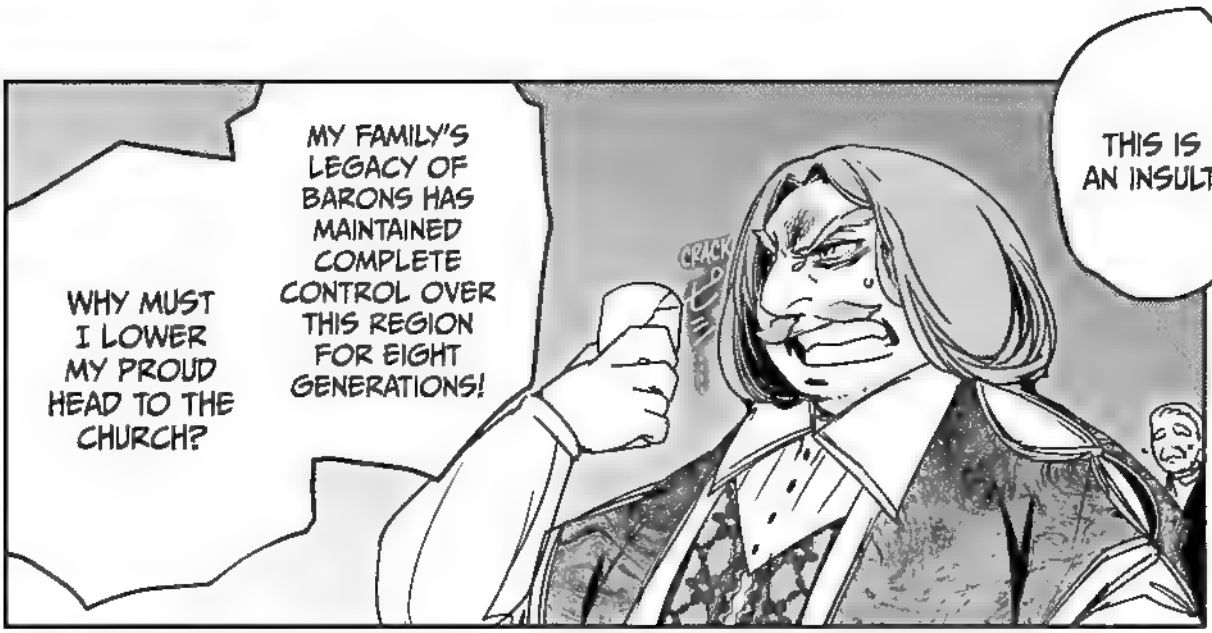
UNSKILLED APPRENTICES LEARN SKILLS BY WATCHING THEIR MASTERS.
DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF, BOY!
THE GUILD HAS ITS OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS.
AD-DITION-ALLY...
URGH!
THUD
I...
...SUP-POSE YOU'RE RIGHT...
A MAN CAN NEVER BECOME A SKILLED CRAFTSMAN BY LEARNING TO CREATE ONLY A FEW PARTS!
THE SPECIALI-ZATION HE DESCRIBES HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING EFFICIENT.
TRAINING THE CRAFTSMEN OF THE GUILD IS IMPORTANT, BUT RIGHT NOW I WANT AS MANY MUSKETS AS POSSIBLE.
BESIDES, YOU...
THAT'S ENOUGH.
PAT

I AM BUSY.
WE WILL DISCUSS THE REST AT THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY.
I HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR YOUR STRENGTH, YOUNG ONE.
I HOPE YOU'LL CONTINUE AIDING YOUR CHIEF, REFORMING YOUR TRADE, AND DEVOTING YOURSELF TO YOUR CRAFT.
THIS...
THIS IS AN HONOR, SIR!
I SWEAR I WILL ON MY LIFE!
PAT
FIRE THE CHIEF AT THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY.
PUT THE YOUNG CRAFTSMAN IN POWER AND MAXIMIZE THE WORKSHOP'S PRODUCTION SPEED.
YES, SIR.

?
WHAT IS IT? TELL ME.
MANY LAND-OWNERS ARE PETITIONING YOU.
IT'S, UMM...
ROYAL PRINCE MAR-SHAL.
DASH!
WHAT?
THE CHURCH?

THE CHURCH'S CONSCRIPTED SOLDIERS WHO HAVE APPEARED NEAR THE CASTLE AND IN VILLAGES WITHIN YOUR TERRITORY...
...ARE CONFISCATING FRESHLY HARVESTED WHEAT AND TRANSPORTING IT AWAY.
STOP THEM!
THEY CANNOT DO AS THEY PLEASE WITHIN MY TERRI-TORY!
TSK!
THE "WHEAT DELIVERY BONDS," HUH?
BUT...
...THEY CARRY BONDS...

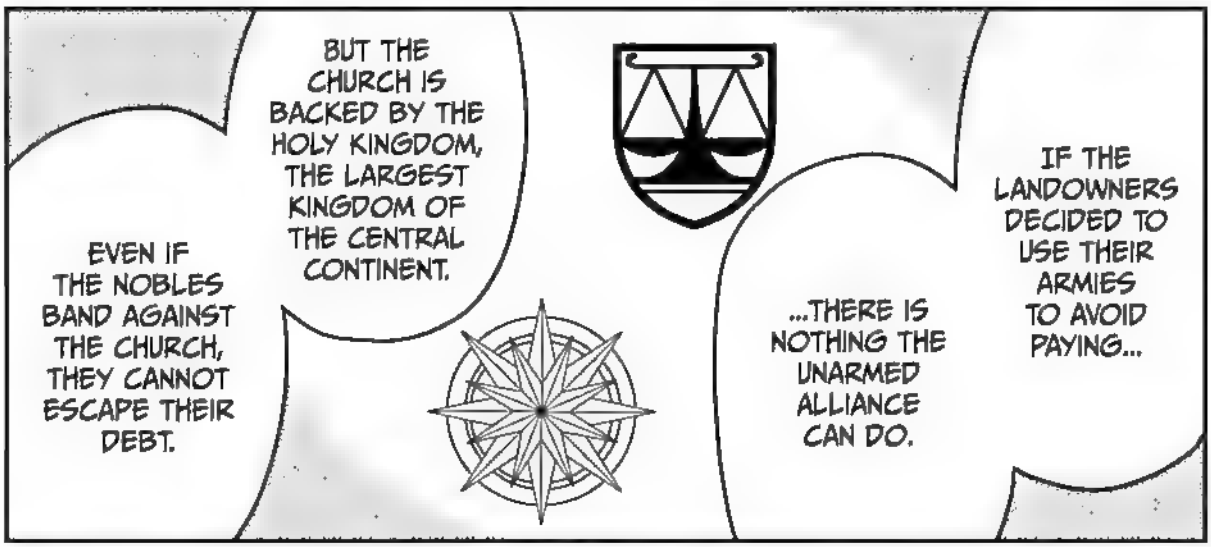
I CAN'T TALK MY WAY OUT OF THIS OR SKIP OUT ON PAYING!
GRIND
WHY DOES THE CHURCH OF HOLY LIGHT HAVE THEM?
I WAS ALMOST CERTAIN THEY WOULDN'T CONSPIRE WITH THAT MERCHANT TO DIMINISH THE POWER OF LANDOWNERS.
IS THAT HOW IT IS, CHURCH?
WE HAVE MONEY!
NEGOTIATE WITH THE CHURCH TO BUY BACK OUR WHEAT DELIVERY BONDS!
WHAT SHALL WE DO?

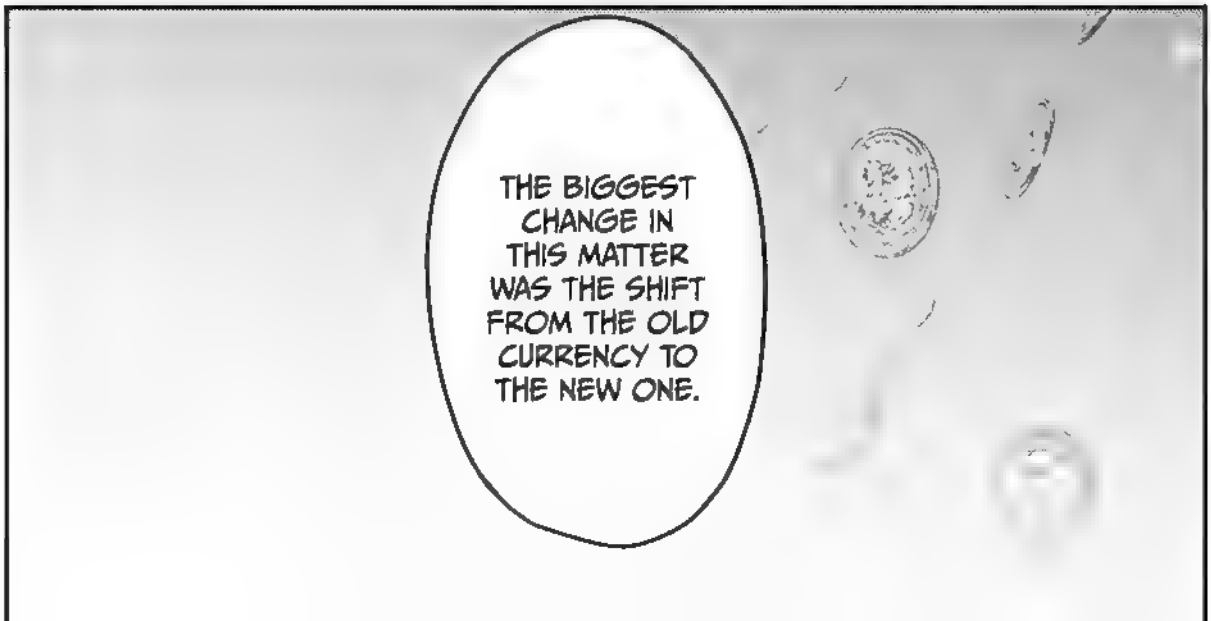

THIS IS AN INSULT.
CRACK
MY FAMILY'S LEGACY OF BARONS HAS MAINTAINED COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THIS REGION FOR EIGHT GENERATIONS!
WHY MUST I LOWER MY PROUD HEAD TO THE CHURCH?

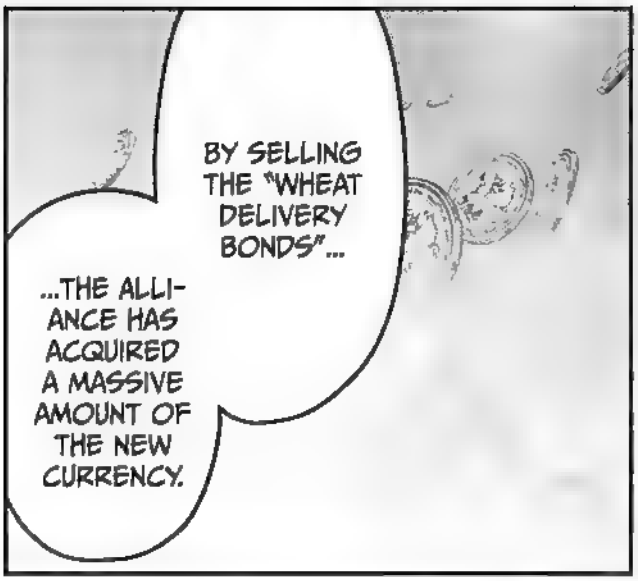
DAMN THE CHURCH OF HOLY LIGHT!
DAMN THAT YOUNG MER-CHANT!

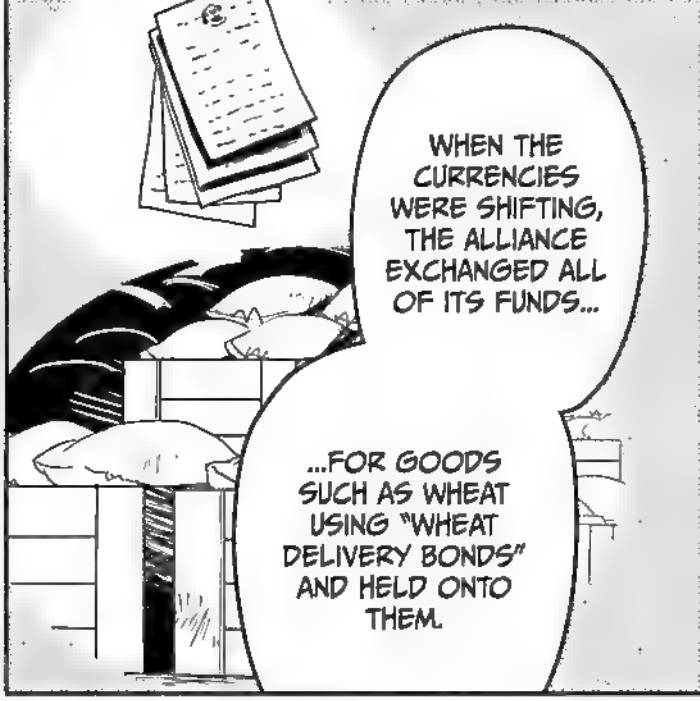
YES...
...TO THE CHURCH OF HOLY LIGHT.
DID YOU SELL ALL...
...OF YOUR "WHEAT DELIVERY BONDS"?

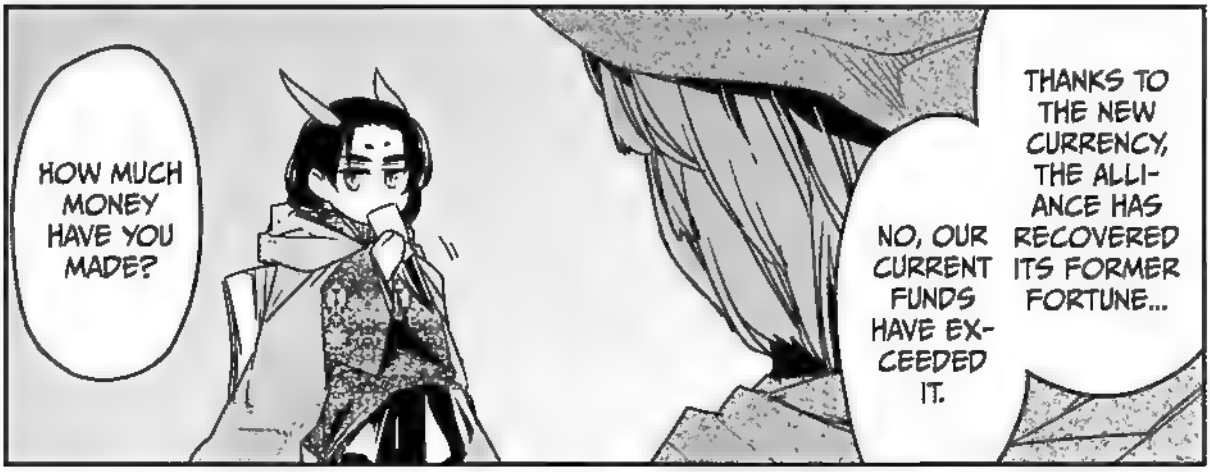
WHY DID YOU SELL THEM TO THE CHURCH?
IT WAS THE RIGHT MOMENT TO GET OUT.
THOSE BONDS ARE A POWERFUL WEAPON...
...BUT ONLY AS LONG AS PEOPLE FEAR THEIR COLLEC-TION.


IF THE LANDOWNERS DECIDED TO USE THEIR ARMIES TO AVOID PAYING...
...THERE IS NOTHING THE UNARMED ALLIANCE CAN DO.
BUT THE CHURCH IS BACKED BY THE HOLY KINGDOM, THE LARGEST KINGDOM OF THE CENTRAL CONTINENT.
EVEN IF THE NOBLES BAND AGAINST THE CHURCH, THEY CANNOT ESCAPE THEIR DEBT.


THE BIGGEST CHANGE IN THIS MATTER WAS THE SHIFT FROM THE OLD CURRENCY TO THE NEW ONE.


BY SELLING THE "WHEAT DELIVERY BONDS"...
...THE ALLIANCE HAS ACQUIRED A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF THE NEW CURRENCY.


WHEN THE CURRENCIES WERE SHIFTING, THE ALLIANCE EXCHANGED ALL OF ITS FUNDS...
...FOR GOODS SUCH AS WHEAT USING "WHEAT DELIVERY BONDS" AND HELD ONTO THEM.


HOW MUCH MONEY HAVE YOU MADE?
NO, OUR CURRENT FUNDS HAVE EXCEEDED IT.
THANKS TO THE NEW CURRENCY, THE ALLIANCE HAS RECOVERED ITS FORMER FORTUNE...

BUT THE TRUE TREASURE WE ACQUIRED ISN'T THE COINS.
COINS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A TOOL.

THAT'S AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT!
ROUGHLY THE SAME AMOUNT OF WEALTH THE ALLIANCE MADE OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS AND CENTRAL CONTINENT ARE DIVIDED BOTH MARTIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY.
THROUGH THESE EXCHANGES, THE ALLIANCE HAS SUCCESSFULLY SECURED TIES WITH BOTH OF THEM.

THAT'S RIGHT.

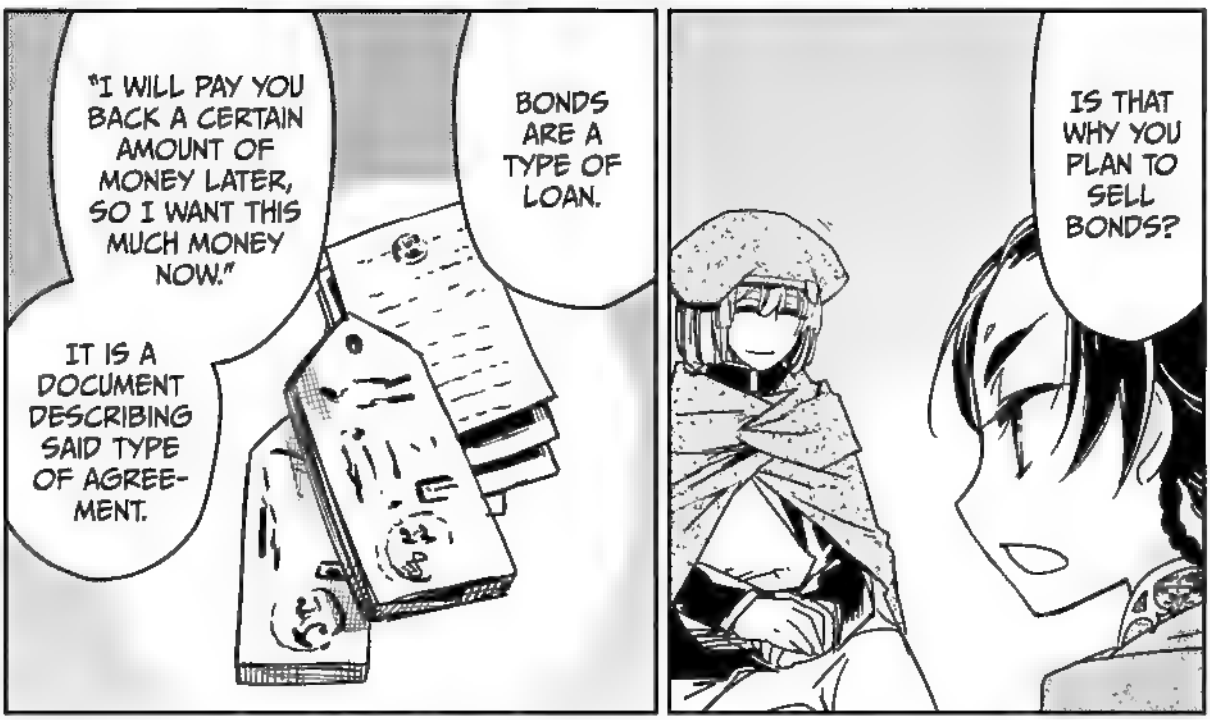
THE EXPANSION OF YOUR TRADING SPHERE.

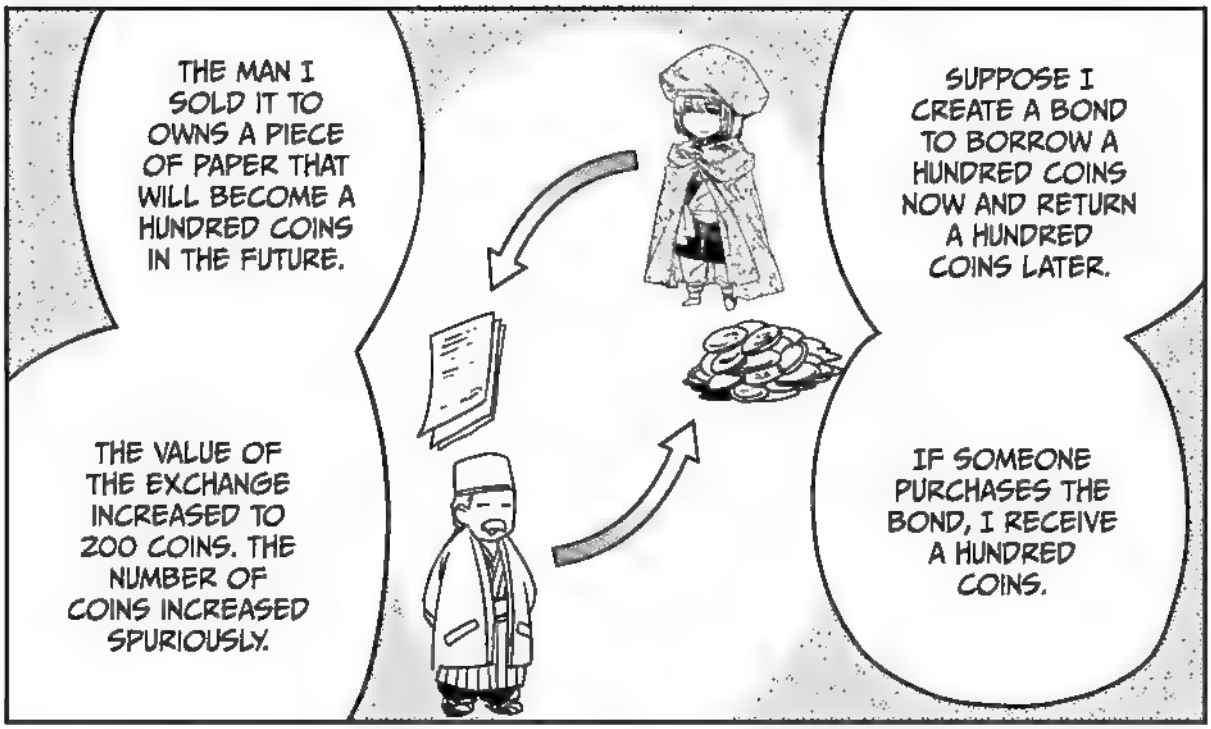
...TRADE WITH THE SPIRIT WORLD -- OR RATHER, TRADE WITH THE SUBTERRANEAN WORLD IS WITHIN OUR GRASP.
ADDITIONALLY...

I BELIEVE THE RESPONSE WAS LARGELY POSITIVE.
HOW DID YOUR ROAD PROPOSAL TO THE CLAN CONFERENCE GO?
IF THIS PLAN DOESN'T PASS, IT WILL PREVENT US FROM TRADING AND CONDUCTING OTHER BUSINESS.

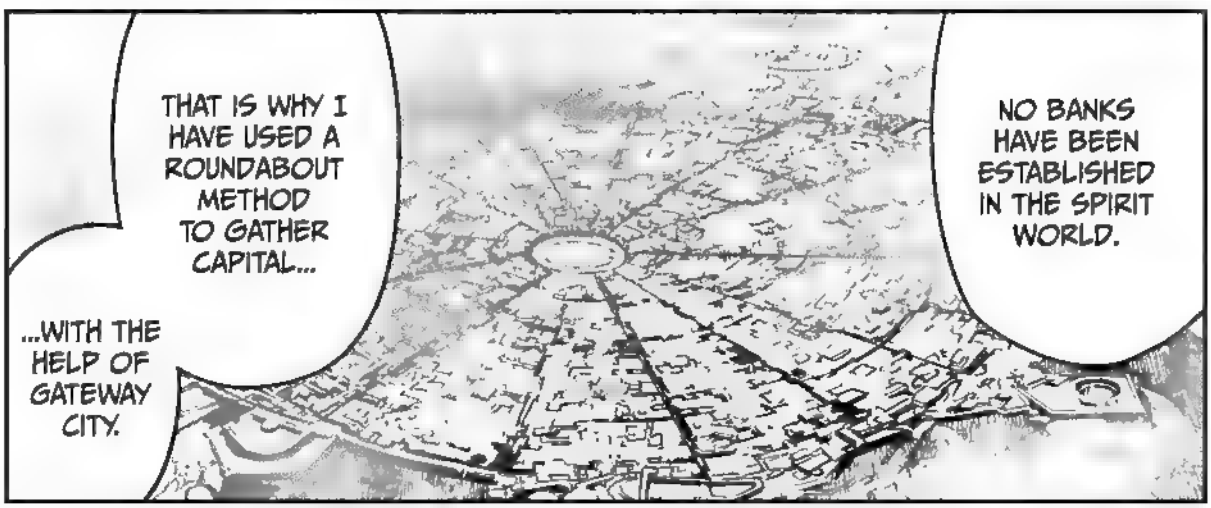
FIRST WE MUST BUILD ROADS AND IRRIGATION DITCHES.
OUR METHODS ARE QUITE ROUNDABOUT THIS TIME.
THE SUB-TERRANEAN WORLD DOESN'T HAVE THE STRUCTURE NECESSARY FOR COMMERCE.
THE LACK OF SURPLUS CURRENCY IS A PROBLEM.

BARTER IS THE PRIMARY FORM OF EXCHANGE IN THE SUBTERRANEAN WORLD.
AS LONG AS PEOPLE CONTINUE TO BARTER, THERE IS NO NEED FOR CURRENCY.
IN OTHER WORDS ...
...THE SYSTEM DOESN'T PROMOTE THE BIRTH OF SURPLUS CURRENCY.

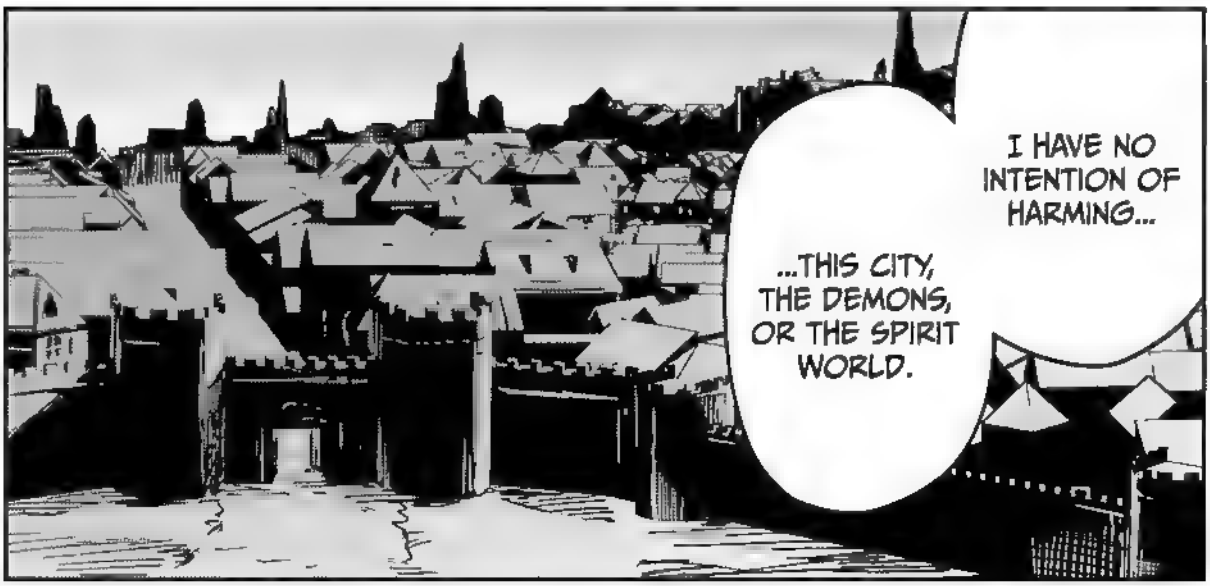

IS THAT WHY YOU PLAN TO SELL BONDS?
BONDS ARE A TYPE OF LOAN.
"I WILL PAY YOU BACK A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MONEY LATER, SO I WANT THIS MUCH MONEY NOW."
IT IS A DOCUMENT DESCRIBING SAID TYPE OF AGREEMENT.


SUPPOSE I CREATE A BOND TO BORROW A HUNDRED COINS NOW AND RETURN A HUNDRED COINS LATER.
IF SOMEONE PURCHASES THE BOND, I RECEIVE A HUNDRED COINS.
THE MAN I SOLD IT TO OWNS A PIECE OF PAPER THAT WILL BECOME A HUNDRED COINS IN THE FUTURE.
THE VALUE OF THE EXCHANGE INCREASED TO 200 COINS. THE NUMBER OF COINS INCREASED SPURIOUSLY.

WITH MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKETS, YOUR OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRADE EXPAND.
WITHOUT CAPITAL, YOU CANNOT TRADE.
I SIMPLY MUST TURN MY CAPITAL INTO 150 COINS BEFORE I RETURN 100 COINS.
THIS IS THE TRUE FUNCTION OF MONEY LENDING.
THE LENDER EXCHANGES THE BORROWER'S TRUST FOR USABLE CAPITAL.


NO BANKS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE SPIRIT WORLD.
THAT IS WHY I HAVE USED A ROUNDABOUT METHOD TO GATHER CAPITAL...
...WITH THE HELP OF GATEWAY CITY.

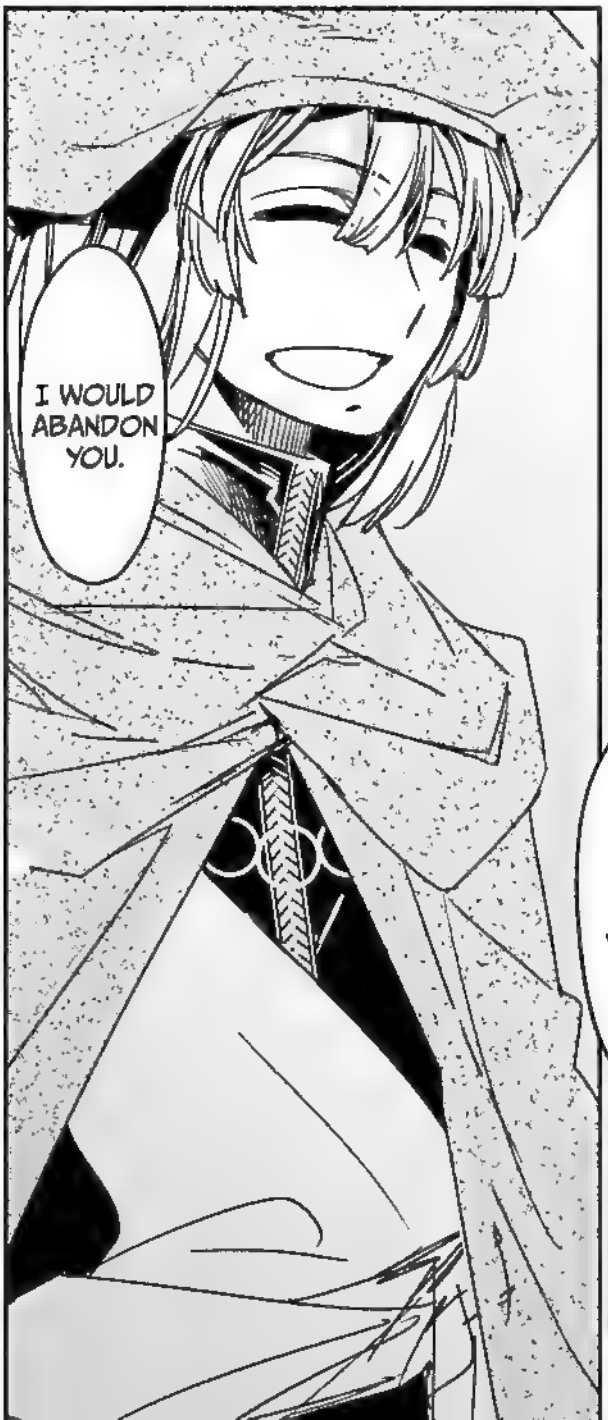
DON'T GLARE AT ME LIKE THAT.


I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HARMING...
...THIS CITY, THE DEMONS, OR THE SPIRIT WORLD.

THE PROFITS OF THE ALLIANCE DO NOT COME AT THE EXPENSE OF SOMEONE ELSE.
THIS ISN'T ABOUT WINNING OR LOSING.

WELL...
IS MY UNDER-STANDING OF THE SITUATION CORRECT?
YOU USED MY POSITION AS ASSEMBLY MEMBER OF GATEWAY CITY AND DAUGHTER OF ARCHDUKE FIRE DRAGON, CHIEF OF THE DRAGON CLAN...
...AND EXCHANGED MY CREDIT FOR CAPITAL.
...ONCE.
THOSE WHO CAN REC-OGNIZE THE BEAUTY OF THE LATTER CAN CALL THEMSELVES MERCHANTS."
"MONEY THAT COMPOSES A FORTUNE AND MONEY THAT IS USED AS A TOOL ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THINGS.
MERCHANT, YOU TOLD ME...
AFTER ALL, I LENT MY CREDIT TO YOU.
I AM CURIOUS TO SEE HOW MUCH YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH WITH THE FUNDS YOU ACQUIRED...
...USING MY CREDIT.
YES.
I DID SAY THAT.

MER-
CHANT.

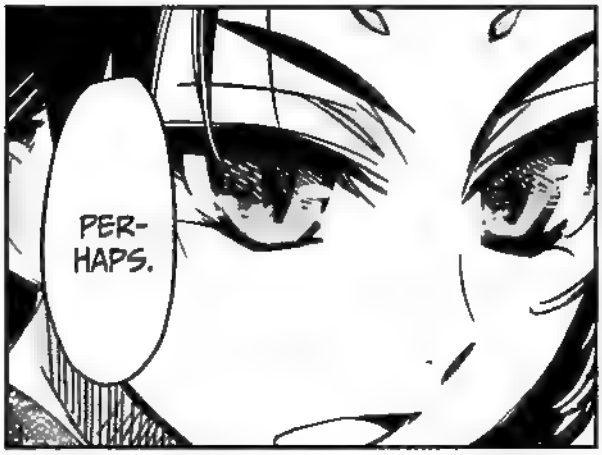

I WOULD ABANDON YOU.

IF I WERE CAPTURED BY A FEARSOME ENEMY...
...AND MAY NOT LIVE TO SEE THE NEXT DAY...
...WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

I'M KIDDING.
....
BURN

NOTHING.

WHAT WOULD BE MY REWARD FOR RESCUING YOU?


PERHAPS.

IS THIS A NEW RIDDLE?

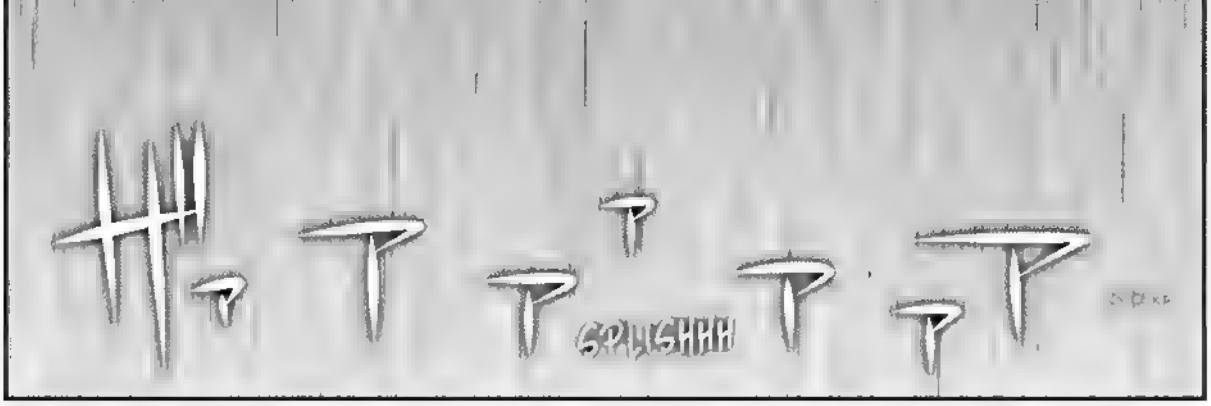
I WOULD RESCUE YOU IN EXCHANGE FOR THE REWARD OF "NO REWARD AT ALL."
WHAT?

A MERCHANT DOES NOT ACT FOR NO REWARD...
...BUT...
...YOU ARE CLEVER AND QUICK TO UNDERSTAND.
ABOVE ALL ELSE, YOU ARE CALM AND FAIR.
YOU ARE THE PERFECT TRADING PARTNER.

I AM AN EQUAL TRADING PARTNER.
IS THAT FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES?
A MERCHANT'S BATTLE NEVER ENDS.
SPLISHHH
SPLISHHH

SPLISHHH
IT'S COMING DOWN HARD.
I'VE NEVER SEEN WEATHER LIKE THIS BELOW.
KNOCK
KNOCK
YES?
SHARE A ROOM?
MANY TRAVELERS HAVE BEEN STOPPED BY THE RAIN, AND I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ROOMS.
YOU'D BE ROOMING WITH A WOMAN, OF COURSE.
YOU'LL RECEIVE A DISCOUNT AS WELL.
THAT'S FINE.
THANK YOU.
MISS, OVER HERE.
BOW

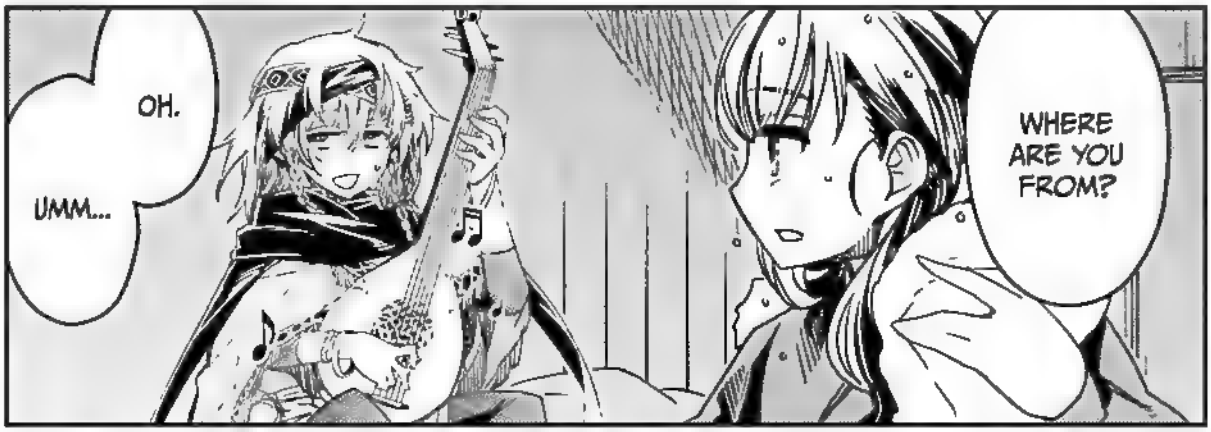
SLIP
RUSTLE
EXCUSE ME.
COME IN.
IT'S FINE.
WE'RE IN THE SAME BOAT.
HELLO.
IT'S A PLEA-SURE TO MEET YOU.
AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M A TRAVELING MINSTREL.
NICE TO MEET YOU.


SPLISHHH

REALLY?
YOU'RE TRAVELING ACROSS THE KINGDOMS AT YOUR AGE?
THERE ARE MANY THINGS I MUST SEE.
THAT'S WHY I LEFT MY COUNTRY, BUT I SEE EVERYWHERE IS A MESS.

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
EVERYTHING IS EXPENSIVE, AND PEOPLE ARE COLLAPSED IN THE STREETS.
JUST SEEING IT IS PAINFUL.
....
YOU'RE RIGHT.

IN MY HOME COUNTRY, EVEN DURING WARS...
...I DIDN'T OFTEN SEE PEOPLE STARVING TO DEATH.


WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
OH.
UMM...

....
I SEE.

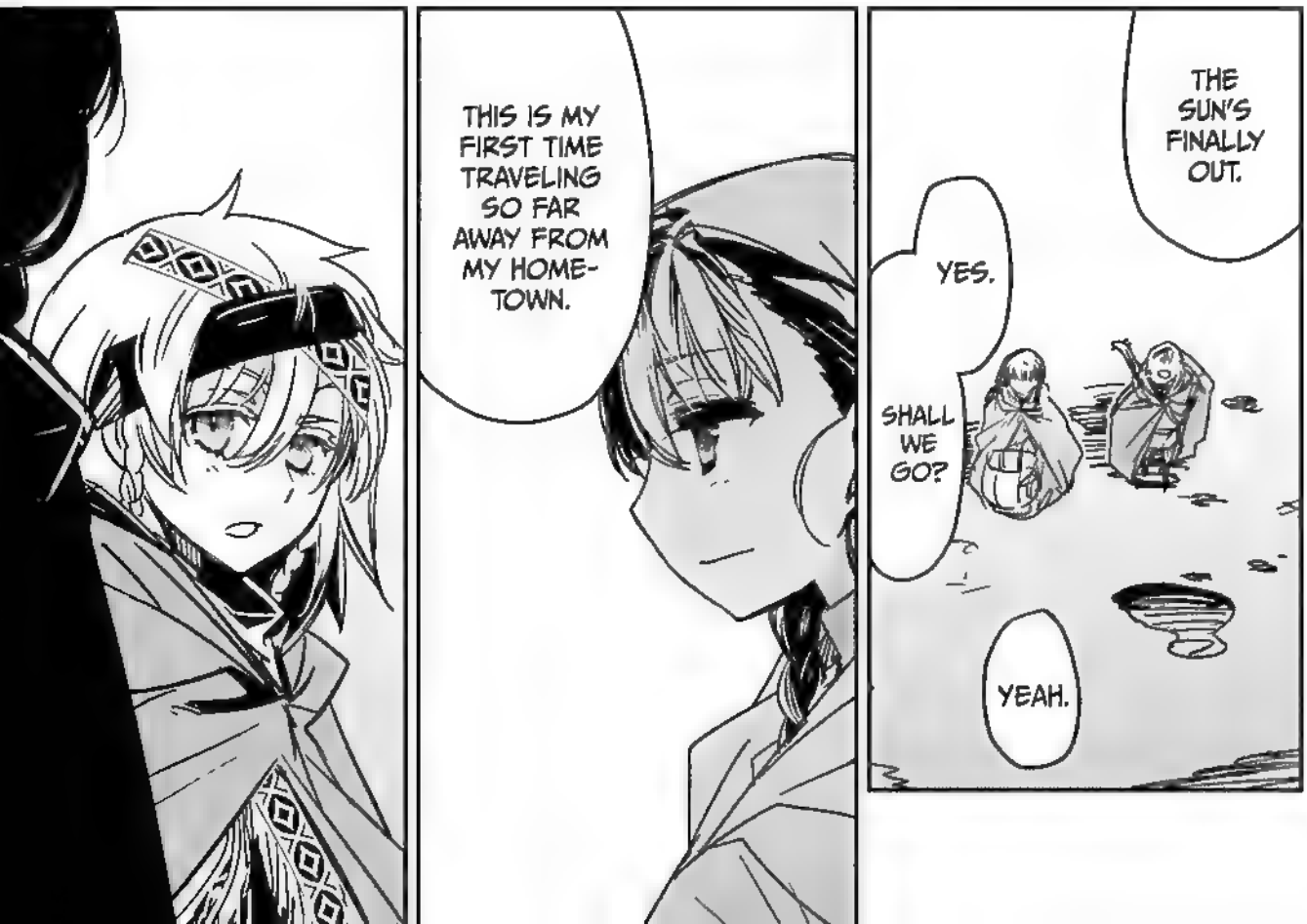
A PLACE VERY FAR AWAY.
あはは…
HA HA HA

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
THE CAPITAL OF THE LAKE KINGDOM.
THERE ARE ARCHIVES THERE THE LAKESIDE CONVENT ONCE USED.
ARE THEY ARCHIVES OF THE SPIRITS OF LIGHT?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
I HEARD THE CONVENT'S RECORDS ARE KEPT THERE.
UMM...
COULD I...
...GO WITH YOU?
?

ANY-WAY...
...I'M INTERESTED IN THE HOLY RELIC, AND I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING RUMORS I HEARD ABOUT IT.
I ACTUALLY WRITE POEMS AND LITERATURE AS WELL.
I CAN PLAY MOST INSTRU-MENTS TOO.
I ALSO WRITE SCRIPTS FOR PLAYS.
THEY'RE ALL THE SAME THING.
I CAN PRACTICALLY FEEL THE POETIC IDEAS.
I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M NEARLY THERE...
...THOUGH I'M SURE THIS MAKES NO SENSE TO YOU.

I GUESS...
...YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
SURE.
WHAT?
LET'S TRAVEL TOGETHER.
UMM...
ARE YOU SURE?
I'M A TRAVELER. I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO BE LECTURING YOU...
...BUT IF YOU TRUST EVERYONE SO EASILY...
...YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF INVOLVED IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE.
HUMANS ARE INVOLVED IN THE WORLD FROM THE MOMENT THEY ARE BORN.
WELL, YEAH.
SCRITCH
カリ
SCRITCH
カリ
THAT'S A NICE WAY OF PUTTING IT.
I'LL WRITE IT DOWN.

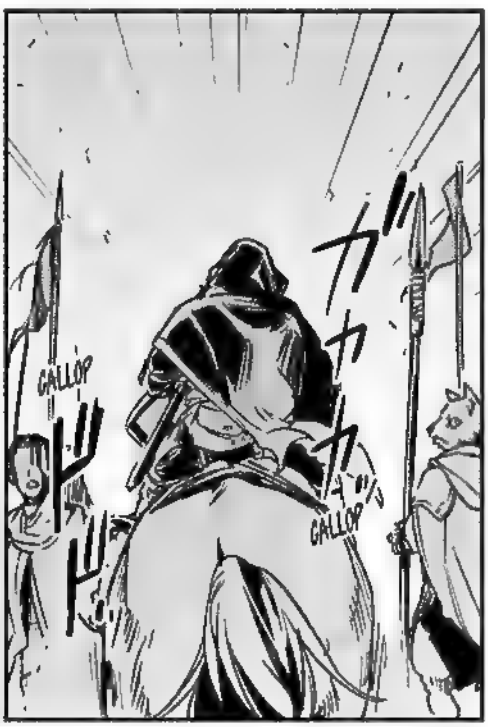
HEE HEE.
HUH?
OH.
SORRY.
IT COMES WITH THE JOB.
SPLISHHH


THE SUN'S FINALLY OUT.
YES.
SHALL WE GO?
YEAH.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME TRAVELING SO FAR AWAY FROM MY HOME-TOWN.

I WONDER IF HE'S STILL BUILDING BRIDGES IN THE SPIRIT WORLD.
MY HOME-TOWN IS IN THE SPIRIT WORLD.

THE HUMANOID CAPITAL
GALLOP
GALLOP

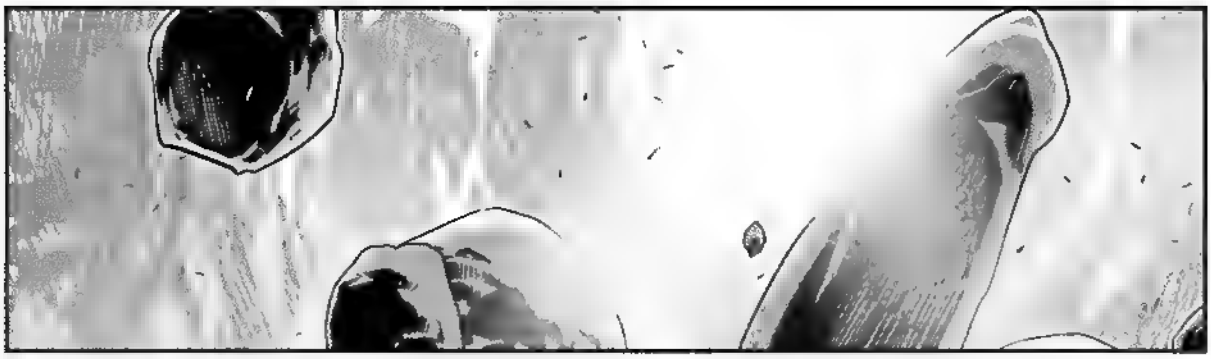
GALLOP
I BRING A MES-SAGE!
A MES-SAGE!
GALLOP


GALLOP
GALLOP

WHAT IS IT?
CHIEF!
PAT-TERNED CHIEF!
STEP
CLIP CLOP
JUMP
!
THE BLUE DEMONS ARE ON THE MOVE!
THERE ARE ROUGHLY 25,000 OF THEM!
THOUGH IT'S NOT THEIR ENTIRE CLAN...
...THEY'RE CURRENTLY ON THE MARCH WITH ALL THEIR ADULT SOLDIERS CAPABLE OF FIGHTING AND THEIR KIN IN TOW!

IS IT THE OGRE CALL TERRI-TORY?
NO.
THEY MAY COME HERE
!!!
WHAT ABOUT THE FANGED DEMONS?
WHERE ARE THEY HEADED?
ARE THEY COMING FOR OUR CLAN'S TERRITORY?
RUSTLE
STOP
THEY AREN'T HEADING TOWARD ANYONE'S TERRITORY.
GATEWAY CITY
THE BLUE DEMONS ARE MOST LIKELY HEADED TOWARD THE RUINS OF THE GATE!
THE PASSAGE KNOWN AS THE GIANT CAVE...

WE BELIEVE THEY INTEND TO PASS THROUGH THE GIANT CAVE...
...AND HEAD INTO THE HUMAN WORLD!



HEY.
IS EVERY-ONE ALL RIGHT?
YES...
YUP!
YEAH
CLATTER
ガラッ

OUCH.
CLATTER
ガラッ

AHEM.
BUT THE FACT THAT NONE OF OUR WORKERS WERE INJURED IS THE SILVER LINING.
THANKS FOR COMING TO WARN US, FAIRY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT ARMY FORCED ITS WAY ACROSS THE INCOMPLETE BRIDGE.

HA HA HA.
I'M HUNGRY, THOUGH.
GRUMBLE

YEAH.
THANKS.
I WORKED SUPER HARD.
I FLEW SO MUCH!

HELP THE INJURED ALONG.
SURE...
OKAY.
ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, EVERYONE! LET'S EAT!

WHOOSH

THE BLUE DEMONS ARE HEADED TO THE SURFACE WHERE SHE IS.
BE CAREFUL, YOUNG MUSICIAN.
I'LL DO MY BEST TOO.

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

ROAR

BOOM

WHOOSH
ROAR
BOOM

ヒュオオ…
WHOOSH

DAMN IT...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE DEMONS CHASED US TO THE MIDNIGHT SUN CAPITAL...
CLANG
CLINK
BOOM
RUMBLE
ROAR
MARCH
WE WILL NOT LET THIS CASTLE FALL!
BUT...
...THE MIDNIGHT SUN KINGDOM'S MAGIC CORPS ARE THE STRONGEST IN THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS!

MAGES! SHOW THEM THE DIFFERENCE IN YOUR STRENGTH!
LEAVE IT TO US!
MARCH
HMPH.
THE HUMAN RESISTANCE IS FUTILE.
WHOOSH
WHUD
WHUD
AAAKGH
THUD
THUD
THUD
SLASH
I SHALL GO.
STEP
SEAL KING...
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO TROUBLE YOURSELF.
NO.
IT WILL BE THE PERFECT REHABILITATION.

WHOOSH
KRAKOOM
CRACKLE
FIRE !!
WHOOSH
THEY'RE COM-ING!
KRASH
WHOOSH
CRACKLE
CLANG
?!

BOOM
WHOOSH
SLUMP
SUCH STRENGTH ...
IM-POS-SIBLE ...
IS THAT... THE DEMON MONARCH ?

SQUIRM
WHO DOES HE THINK I AM?
SQUIRM
CRASH
HOW...
...INSO-LENT!
THE MIDNIGHT SUN'S LINEAGE IS AS NOBLE AS THE HOLY KINGDOM'S...
HISS

STRIKING AT YOUR ENEMIES WHEN THEY ARE WEAK IS A COMMON TACTIC IN WAR.
THE MIDNIGHT SUN KINGDOM LOST MOST OF ITS FORCES DURING A PREVIOUS YEAR'S BATTLE.
ARE HUMANS ALL THIS WEAK?
I GROW TIRED OF THIS.

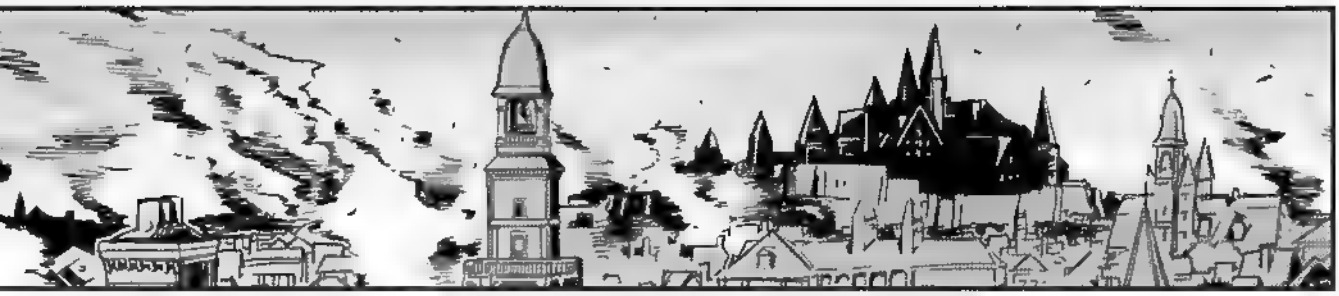
STEP
THIS PLACE WILL MAKE A GOOD FOOTHOLD IN THE SURFACE WORLD.

おお
OOH!

CHEER
PROUD WARRIORS OF THE BLUE DEMONS...
...WE ARE VICTORI-OUS!

ROAR
WE HAVE NO HOME LEFT IN THE SPIRIT WORLD THAT SERVES AN IMPERTINENT DEMON QUEEN!
HOW-EVER...
...WE HAVE DESTROYED A KINGDOM OF THE HATED HUMANS AND MADE IT OUR OWN!

ROAR
THE ONLY WAY WE CAN LIVE...
...IS BY INVADING THE SURFACE AND DRIVING OUT THE HUMANS!



WE MUST SEIZE THIS KINGDOM QUICKLY.
OUR NEXT TARGET SEEMS MORE FORMIDABLE.
YES, SIR!
DON'T TELL THE SOLDIERS ABOUT OUR AGREEMENT FOR NOW.
THIS WAR WILL BE EASIER THE MORE DESPERATE THEY ARE.
STEP
STEP

THE NEIGH-BORING KINGDOM IS THE IRON KINGDOM, ISN'T IT?
ONCE WE FINISH CONQUERING THIS KINGDOM, WE WILL ATTACK THEM IMMEDIATELY.

THE WINTER KINGDOM ROYAL PALACE
WHAT?
IN JUST ONE NIGHT?
CLATTER
ARE YOU SURE?
YES, SIR!
THE MIDNIGHT SUN CASTLE HAS FALLEN!

DIS-
PATCH A
MES-
SENGER
...
...TO
OVER-
WINTER
VILLAGE!
IRON KINGDOM
MIDNIGHT SUN
KINGDOM
IF THE
MIDNIGHT SUN
KINGDOM
HAS FALLEN,
NEXT THEY'LL
ATTACK...
...THE
IRON
KING-
DOM!
SHE WILL
KNOW WHAT
IT MEANS
AND ACT!
TELL THE
SCHOLAR...
...THE
MIDNIGHT SUN
KINGDOM AND
ITS CASTLE
HAVE FALLEN
TO THE
DEMONS!
YES,
SIR!
I
UNDER-
STAND!
I WILL LEAD
THE CAVALRY
TO THE IRON
KINGDOM!
ESTABLISH
A COMMU-
NICATION
SYSTEM!

THE END

CHAPTER 34
Humans are Involved in the World From the Moment They are Born

CHANGES IN PRODUCTION METHODS AND SPECIALIZATION

Manufactured good were once produced by skilled craftsmen. In response to demands for greater efficiency, specialization was born, leading to today's era of mass production.

SPECIALIZATION BORN IN RESPONSE TO DEMANDS FOR INCREASED EFFICIENCY OF PRODUCTION

In Europe during the Middle Ages, craftsmen created goods by hand. From processing materials to completing the product, a single craftsman was responsible for the entire manufacturing process under a system known as the "household based handicraft industry." Because craftsmen worked by hand, the quality of a product varied according to the skill of the craftsman who produced it. Skilled craftsmen naturally received more orders, but there were limits to how much a single person could produce, and production was limited.

A massive ironworks producing muskets. Though everything is still produced by hand, the world of *Maoyu* is advancing little by little

As discussed in the fifth period of this corner (Vol. 2), over time merchants formed guilds, and craftsmen began forming their own guilds as well. Craftsman guilds controlled the quality of their products to compensate for the disparity in quality between the products of different workshops. However, the method of production itself remained unchanged, and efficiency stayed poor.

Specialization, the method of dividing the manufacturing process into smaller processes even unskilled craftsmen could manage, was born at this time. Workers could quickly learn to repeat a single part of the manufacturing process, and goods could be produced in a relatively short amount of time. The increase in laborers led to an increase in productivity. In this work, a master craftsman reprimanded his apprentice, but through specialization it was possible for a person to begin by learning simple techniques and gradually master more advanced manufacturing processes. If the goal is to create a standardized product, specialization is an effective training method as well.

As the ideas behind specialization advanced, some manufacturers began renting their equipment to outsiders and letting them handle relatively simple manufacturing. Ordering an outside manufacturer to handle part of the manufacturing process and purchasing the product is known as the "putting-out system." Later, as specialization advanced further, the increasingly large number of production workers became difficult to manage. During the "Industrial Revolution" of the mid 18th Century, humans were replaced with machines, and enormous pieces of machinery began to appear. Groups of equipment and workers known as "factories" were born at this time. In this manner, the originally exclusive guilds were broken apart by social revolution. The "handicraft manufacturing" born during this period led the world into an era of mass production and later developed into "factory based industry."

Allowing unskilled workers to participate in the manufacturing process is one of the strengths of specialization.

Specialization is especially effective when producing large numbers of a product of a standard quality. It is perfect for manufacturing munitions such as muskets, and munitions are highly compatible with specialization.

Special Appendix

ILLUSTRATION GALLERY

MAOYU : Archenemy and Hero
"Become mine, Hero" "I refuse!"
Volume 10

KADOKAWA MANGA

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MAOYU MAOU YUUSHA
"KONO WARENO MONOTONARE, YUUSHAYO" "KOTOWARU!"
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2-13-3 Fujimi Chiyoda-ku Tokyo, 102-8177 JAPAN

Translation/Wowmax Media! LLC
Lettering and Design/Keiran O'Leary
Editor/Eric Searleman